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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 1 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1947 TEN CENTS

Competitive Bidding Made Optional in Final Decree

Exhibitors Who Want It May Have It; Court Abolishes Arbitration and Appeal Board; Divorcement Provisions Remain Unchanged

By TOM LOY

The three judge statutory court in the industry anti-trust suit on Tuesday handed down a final decree, modifying its original decision of last June by limiting competitive bidding for feature pictures to "within a competitive area and, in such an area, where it is desired by the exhibitors."

Highlights Of Decree

HIGHLIGHTS of the final decree entered on Tuesday by the New York Federal court in the eight-year-old government anti-trust case against the industry are:

Competitive bidding for pictures is put on an elective basis for exhibitors. It will be available only in competitive areas and then only when exhibitors request it, effective July 1.

The industry arbitration system and its appeal board are abolished,

(*Continued on page* 8)

At the same time, the court provided for termination of the industry arbitration system set up under the consent decree of Nov. 20, 1940, but strongly recommended that some such system be continued on a voluntary basis "in order to avoid cumbersome and dilatory court litigation and to preserve the practical advantages of the tribunals created by the consent decree."

Apart from the judgments on competitive bidding and elimination of arbitration, the final decree follows the Federal Court's opinion of last June in all major respects.

The operation of Tuesday's judgment, in which most features adhere to the judges opinion rendered on June 11, is stayed for a period of 60 days, or until March 1, and, if an appeal is taken, for 30 additional days. Moreover, the provisions calling for competitive bidding and single sales will not become effective until July 1.

(*Continued on page* 8)

Decree Believed to Prohibit Roadshows

While the decree handed down by the three-judge Federal Court on Tuesday makes no reference of any kind to the roadshowing of special features, the prohibition against fixing minimum admissions is embodied in the decree and, in the absence of any exception, would nullify road shows which depend upon advanced price scale.

Only voluntary action by exhibitors, perhaps through competitive bidding, to establish higher admission scales for a "special" would be permissible. The court had been asked to authorize one road show a year per company for features costing $3,000,000 or more.

Admission Tax Cut in Half On July 1st

GOP Opposition Looms; 'Backward Step' Is Cry

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Unless Congress acts in the meantime to renew or extend present excise taxes effective July 1, 1947, the wartime Federal admissions tax will drop from the present 20 per cent rate to the prewar 10 per cent rate, by virtue of President Truman's proclamation of yesterday which terminated his war powers.

Federal admission taxes during November, 1946, amounted to $36,393,291, compared to $36,394,910 collected during the same month in 1945, the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue reported from Washington yesterday.

The Presidential proclamation appears to have Republican Congressional leaders "confused and sitting on

(*Continued on page* 11)

Schary Heads RKO Studios

Dore Schary, Vanguard Films producer, who is committed to the David O. Selznick company until next December, will join RKO Radio as executive vice-president in charge of production under a five-year agreement announced by N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO. No definite date has yet been fixed for Schary to shoulder his new duties as Rathvon's associate, but conferences are proceeding between the RKO

Dore Schary

(*Continued on page* 11)

3 Coast Unions to Parley on Strike

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—Prospects for settlement of the studio strike brightened somewhat as the embattled Conference of Studio Unions and the IATSE, along with the neutral Screen Actors Guild, accepted an invitation from the Los Angeles Inter-Faith

(*Continued on page* 10)

Filing of Decree on Eve of Holiday Found Offices Closed, Many Away

With only nine hours remaining in the year 1946 and, perhaps, as a toast or gesture to the New Year, the anti-trust decree, handed down Tuesday afternoon by the New York Federal Court, caught the industry completely by surprise. Although expected at any time during the past month, the decree was filed at about 3:05 P.M. when many industry executives already had begun their New Year's holidays or were heading out of town either for rest or business.

Virtually all home offices had proclaimed a holiday recess at 1 P.M. A number of company attorneys who were still in their offices, upon learning of the court's action, remained until late in order to get copies of the decree to begin studying it immediately.

Some executives who were at early holiday parties when word of the decree's filing was received, left immediately to seek copies and consult with attorneys.

Government Set for Early Appeal Brief

Washington, Jan. 1. — The Department of Justice is prepared to take an appeal of the New York Federal Court decision at the earliest, with preparations already set. The Government made known some time ago that it was laying the groundwork for the appeal brief in anticipation of the terms of the decree as indicated by the court's original opinion of June 11 and subsequent court developments.

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Personal Mention

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA is due in New York from Florida today and is scheduled to leave here for England on the *Queen Elizabeth* tomorrow.

•

SEYMOUR MAYER, 16mm sales chief for Loew's International, will leave by plane today for a three-months' tour of Latin America.

•

JOHN CORFIELD and PAUL SOSKIN, British producers, will return to England from here tomorrow on the *Queen Elizabeth*.

•

PAT PINELL, Columbia salesman in Denver, and CATHERINE WADE were married recently.

•

AL GROSS, M-G-M office manager in Denver, is recuperating from pneumonia.

•

RALPH WHEELWRIGHT, screen writer is en route to New York from the Coast.

•

JERRY WALD, Warner producer, has arrived here from Burbank.

•

MARIAN CARR, actress, is here from the RKO Radio studios.

'Best Years' Is Cited

CHICAGO, Jan. 1. — "The Best Years of Our Lives," has been chosen the best picture of the year by Sam Lesner, film critic of *The Chicago Daily News*.

Other films chosen by Lesner as the best, from the standpoint of entertainment value, were: "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Killers," "Notorious," "Diary of a Chambermaid," "Strange Love of Martha Ivers," "Anna and the King of Siam," "My Darling Clementine," "Cloak and Dagger" and "Saratoga Trunk." Best foreign films of the year as chosen by Lesner, were: "Henry V," "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Open City," "Last Chance" and "Once There Was a Girl."

Fonda in New Post

BENNINGTON, VT., Jan. 1.—David G. Fonda has assumed his new duties as general manager of American Theatre Corp. in Waterliet, N. Y. He was formerly manager of the General Stark Theatre, here, for two years and had been affiliated with that theatre for seven years. He has been succeeded by Gary Buckley who is the son of Mrs. C. H. Buckley who heads the local theatre corporation.

'Kilroy' to Monogram

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—Steve Broidy, president of Monogram, has closed a deal with Dick Irving Hyland and Sid Luft to release their initial production, "Kilroy Was Here." Jackie Cooper and Jackie Coogan will be co-starred in the comedy, which goes before the cameras at Monogram on Jan. 15.

Industry Overseas Has 'Solemn Duty'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Export and production segments of the industry have a "solemn duty to perform" in foreign film distribution, the House Committee on Post-War Economic Policy and Planning, said in a report summing up hearings conducted on industry export problems.

First, films must be produced to portray the true American way of life. Secondly, the committee said, every effort must be made to get U. S. films into nations which now maintian economic "curtains."

The House group talked against censorship of foreign films in its report. It encouraged the State Department to continue efforts to eliminate discriminatory barriers against U. S. films abroad. The Committee praised the work of George Canty, State Department film consultant, who handles trade agreements pertaining to films.

The committee will hold further hearings on film exports and the State Department's cultural film program, it said. No mention was made in the report about American curtailment of films from Russia and other nations which do not permit our pictures. It left the question of "striking back" hanging in the air.

Fresno, Cal., Warns On Fire Hazards

FRESNO, Cal., Jan. 1.—In an effort to tighten fire regulations in Fresno, fire marshal W. D. Speed has notified local exhibitors that any laxity in fire regulations will be prosecuted.

Speed cited violations that will be most carefully checked include: allowing patrons to stand in aisles, installation of electric motors and the use of inflammable materials. All electric motors and freezing motors were ordered to be immediately taken out, and fireproofing of upholstery, drapes, curtains and decorations were specified as necessary, with a stipulation that the manager of the theatre must post certificates certifying the date when materials were fireproofed.

WB Shifts Managers

MEMPHIS, Jan. 1. — Two changes in Warner theatre managers were announced today by Harry Kalmine, president of the circuit. James Barnes, Memphis manager since Howard Waugh's departure last January, will be transferred to the Warner Theatre in Oklahoma City, his place to be taken by James McCarthy, manager of the Warner Theatre in Madison, Wis.

Steinberg in E-L Post

Herb Steinberg has been added to Jerry Pickman's publicity staff at Eagle-Lion, here. He will serve as New York newspaper contact, while Marie Slate will handle syndicates, and Leo Brody, magazines. Steinberg is also trade press contact for PRC which handles physical distribution for Eagle-Lion.

1st Selznick Sales Conference Friday

First of a series of conferences between home office executives and key field personnel of the new Selznick Releasing Organization will be held here tomorrow. Present at the meeting, conducted by Milton Kusell, domestic general sales manager, will be Samuel Horowitz, Midwestern sales manager, from Chicago, and Thomas Duane, New England sales manager, from Boston.

Other division managers are expected in New York for additional conferences next week. John Howard is in charge of sales on the Pacific Coast, and a Southern sales manager is expected to be named in the near future.

DeMille's AFRA Suit Appeal Is Dismissed

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 1.—Superior Court Judge Emmett H. Wilson has dismissed producer Cecil B. DeMille's appeal from a court order disallowing his suit to restrain the American Federation of Radio Artists from levying an assessment against him for use in a political campaign. Wilson held the assessment was permissible under the AFRA's article of incorporation.

The suit was first brought when De Mille, then a Federation member, objected to the payment of a $1 assessment in December, 1944. The assessment was to be used to fight a state legislative proposal that would guarantee the right to work regardless of union affiliation—a proposal that eventually was defeated.

Ryder Heads SMPE; Jan. 23 Board Meet

Loren L. Ryder, Paramount studio engineering executive, yesterday became president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, succeeding Donald E. Hyndman, Eastern division sales manager of Eastman Kodak. Ryder has served as SMPE executive vice-president since 1942. That post was assumed yesterday by Earle I. Sponable, Movietone News engineer.

Hyndman will present the presidential gavel to Ryder at ceremonies to be conducted at an SMPE board of governors meeting scheduled for Jan. 23, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, here.

Testimonial for Epstein

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1. — Ely J. Epstein, new RKO Radio sales manager in this territory, will be given a testimonial luncheon by the local Motion Picture Association, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Jan. 20. William J. Boyle is chairman of the arrangements committee.

David Schiller, 64

Funeral services for David Schiller, manager of Loew's Dyckman's Theatre, New York, were held this week from his home in Englewood, N. J. Schiller, brother of the late E. A. Schiller, vice-president of Loew's, Inc., was 64.

Coming Events

Jan. 3—Pooled television network coverage of Congress in session, 12 Noon.

Jan. 7 — Annual meeting of the Television Broadcasters Association, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.

Jan. 8—Cinema Stamp Coll[illegible] meeting, Museum of Science and Industry, Rockefeller Center, New York.

Jan. 10-11-12—Meeting of Monogram franchise holders and branch managers, Coronado Hotel, St. Louis.

Jan. 13-19 — American-Mexican "Variety Club Week" in Mexico City to inaugurate the Variety Club of Mexico.

Jan. 14-17—Materials Handling Exposition, Public Auditorium, Cleveland.

Jan. 15-30—March of Dimes drive (theatres' participation slated for the week beginning Jan. 24).

Jan. 22-23—Annual convention of the Western Pennsylvania Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners, William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh.

Jan. 26-28—Meeting of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Charlotte.

Jan. 27—Federal Communications Commission to resume hearings on color television standards, New York.

Jan. 31—National Allied board meeting, Hotel Statler, Washington.

Feb. 2-3—Virginia Motion Picture Theatres Association convention, Shoreham Hotel, Washington.

Film Truckers' Strike Averted in Detroit

DETROIT, Jan. 1.—The film truckers strike scheduled to take place here beginning at midnight last night has been averted with the signing of a new contract for 1947 by the owners and Local No. 299, teamsters union, American Federation of Labor, G. E. LeVeque of Cinema Service has announced.

Although the terms of the contract are undisclosed, both sides are described as satisfied with the new pact.

'Plainsman', 'Guy' Get Legion Ratings

Republic's "The Plainsman and the Lady," and Universal's "Swell Guy," have been classified by the National Legion of Decency, both in Class A-II.

Enter QP Awards: Latta

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 1. — C. J. Latta, Warner Theatre's zone manager, here, has urged Warner managers to enter the annual Quigley Awards competition. Latta voiced his proposal before a district meeting, here, attended by managers from the Albany, Troy and Utica areas.

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Sweet Warner Music for 1947

A GAL IN CALICO
OH, BUT I DO
A RAINY NIGHT IN RIO
THROUGH A THOUSAND DREAMS
A SOLID CITIZEN OF THE SOLID SOUTH
I HAPPENED TO WALK DOWN FIRST STREET

All these new song sensations in one picture
New bravoes for the New Year to
ARTHUR SCHWARTZ & LEO ROBIN!

THE SWEETEST MUSIC ON THE AIR AND THE
SWEETEST MUSICAL
BUSINESS ANY-
WHERE IS NOW
COMING FROM

"THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL"

IN TECHNICOLOR

STARRING
DENNIS MORGAN · JACK CARSON · JANIS PAIGE · MARTHA VICKERS
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Screen Play by Francis Swann, Agnes Christin Johnston & Lynn Starling • Original Story by Leonard Lee • Orchestral Arrangements by Ray Heindorf • Musical Sequences Created and Staged by LeROY PRINZ

Directed by DAVID BUTLER · Produced by ALEX GOTTLIEB

IT'S WONDE

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"Socko Capra pic! 'It's a Wonderful Life' will enjoy just that at the b.o., and eminently deserves to do so! Word-o'-mouth will accelerate the whirring of theatres' wickets!" — *Variety*

"A wonderful motion picture! That it will do wonderful business is as sure as anything in show business can be. A picture for all kinds of audiences!" — *Motion Picture Herald*

"Should account for high grosses in all situations! Exceptionally entertaining . . . superbly enacted by James Stewart and Donna Reed! Excellent, enjoyable entertainment for the entire family. Appears destined for long and deserved popularity!" — *Showmen's Trade Review*

"A thoroughly engrossing picture! One of the important exhibition ventures of 1947. It can't miss such an exalted niche!" — *Boxoffice*

"Outstanding! One of the great films of this or any year! Has all the ingredients to make up swell entertainment! . . . Capra and his touch at his best!" — *The Exhibitor*

"This is one of the great ones; headed for smash biz! Stirring, profound, intensely human! This is for Everyman! Frank Capra has created a grand picture of humanity! A candidate for many laurels!" — *Film Daily*

"Going to do wonderful things at the boxoffice! James Stewart's performance of Academy Award stature!" — *M. P. Daily*

RFUL BOXOFFICE!

le Trade Press!!!

"The entertainment values are guarantee of sensational box-office! Production beyond reproach . . . top showmanship in the filming!" —*Daily Variety*

"Excellent mass entertainment! Powerful, deeply appealing human-interest drama. Every one who will see the picture will love it." —*Harrison's Reports*

"A truly wonderful motion picture! It is going to roll up record-breaking grosses . . . and be among the nation's top few everywhere!" —*Film Bulletin*

LIBERTY FILMS INC

Presents

FRANK CAPRA'S

"It's a Wonderful Life"

starring JAMES STEWART

and DONNA REED

WITH

LIONEL BARRYMORE · THOMAS MITCHELL · HENRY TRAVERS

and BEULAH BONDI · WARD BOND · FRANK FAYLEN · GLORIA GRAHAME

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY FRANK CAPRA

Screen Play by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra • Additional Scenes by Jo Swerling

Released through RKO RADIO Pictures

UW Acquires Castle Under New Program

Substantiating earlier disclosures that United World Films, 16mm. unit of Universal, will enlarge its scope in the home and non-theatrical distribution fields, UW has acquired the business of Castle Films, 16mm. and 8mm. home and non-theatrical production-distribution company, it was jointly announced here Tuesday by Matthew Fox, UW board chairman, and Eugene W. Castle, head of Castle Films. Acquisition of Castle, Fox said, represents augmentation of the seven-year, integrated educational production-distribution program launched jointly by UW and the J. Arthur Rank Organization of Britain last month, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 19.

Under the absorbtion, Fox disclosed, Castle Films becomes a division of UW, with Castle continuing as manager of the division. As a subsidiary, Castle will retain its present functions, its organization and present personnel for the production and distribution of home and non-theatrical pictures in 16mm. and 8mm. All present Castle dealers and sales outlets throughout the world will be maintained, it was explained. Additionally, Castle becomes a vice-president and a member of the board of UW; Harry J. Spies, formerly treasurer of Castle, will also fill those posts; Murray Goodman, Castle sales manager, remains in that capacity, and Don Hancock will continue as production head.

Castle, its manager said, will make available under the new set-up some 40 or 50 subjects in 1947. The firm buys as well as produces films, with distribution aimed principally at home projectors. Fox said Castle branches in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Washington will henceforth operate under the UW banner, as will additional exchange outlets to be set up in Boston, Atlanta, Dallas and perhaps St. Louis. He said it is anticipated that some 100,000 new low-gauge projectors will be made in 1947.

WB Radio 'School'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1. — To provide all-around training for its younger players, the Warner studio has launched a radio series known as "Star-Makers Radio Theatre," and broadcast every Tuesday night over Station KFWB.

News Strike Hurts Rochester Theatres

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Not even expansion of local radio broadcasts to convey theatre news, along with other coverage of interest to this city's 325,000 residents, has suceeded in overcoming some losses which have been incurred by local business during the current strike of press-room workers against *The Democrat and Chronicle* and *The Rochester Times-Union*, both owned by Frank E. Gannett. The shutdown began Nov. 8 when printers, followed by other workers who are members of the International Typographical Union, walked off their jobs.

Both newspapers have kept their news staffs at work and *The Times-Union* has been issuing about 20 poster-size bulletins of key news which are being distributed to public places like theatres, clubs and restaurants.

Albert Finke Dies In Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 1.—Albert J. Finke, 51, vice-president of Evergreen Theatres in Oregon, including the Paramount, Orpheum, Oriental Playhouse, Music Box, Liberty and Hollywood Theatres, Portland, and four others in Oregon and Washington, died suddenly last Sunday of a heart attack. A native of San Francisco, he was actively connected with theatres for the past 35 years. He took an active part in civic programs and headed the Motion Pictures War Activities Committee. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Honorary pallbearers included leaders in the film industry, state and city officials.

Stafford-Pallos Film To George Schaefer

American distribution rights to "The Sixteenth Bar" have been acquired by George J. Schaefer Associates. The recently-completed John Stafford-Steven Pallos production, originally titled "Teheran," was filmed entirely on location in Rome and in the Iranian capital.

Directed by William Freshman, from an original story by Dorothy Hope, "The Sixteenth Bar" is built around the 1943 meeting of the "Big Three" in Teheran, and the incidental plot on the life of President Roosevelt.

Sweigert's Mother Dies

Mrs. Catherine S. Sweigert, mother of Earle Sweigert, Paramount's Mid-Eastern division sales manager, died at her home in North Wales, Pa., Monday. She was 78 years old. Funeral services will be held at the Hartzell Funeral Hall, North Wales, tomorrow afternoon, with interment in the Lutheran Cemetery in Perkasie, Pa. Mrs. Sweigert is survived by three other sons and a daughter.

$31,366 for War Wounded

A check for $31,366, representing contributions raised under the aegis of the Skouras Theatres community service department within the circuit's 63 houses, has been presented by George P. Skouras to Walter Young, publisher of the *New York Journal-American* for the newspaper's "War Wounded Christmas Gift Fund."

Georgia Exhibitors Form New Group

ATLANTA, Jan. 1. — Meeting at the Piedmont Hotel, here, organization of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners and Operators of Georgia was completed with the following officers elected to serve for 1947;

J. H. Thompson, president, Martin and Thompson Theatres, Hawkinsville; O. C. Lam, vice-president, Lam Amusement Co., Rome; E. D. Martin, vice-president, Martin Theatres, Columbus; John Thompson, secretary, Pal Amusement Co. Vidalia; R. E. Martin, treasurer, Martin Theatres, Columbus.

Regional chairman and directors are: Southeastern, M. F. Brice, Fred Weis, Ward Riggins; Central, W. M. Snelson, W. W. Mowbray, W. R. Boswell; Southwestern, Ellison Dunn, Adolph Gortatosky, E. D. Martin; at-large, Luke Stwin, Nat Williams, William H. Karrh; Northwestern, O. C. Lam, J. S. Tankersley, J. Eb Duncan.

Exhibitors and their wives were guests at a cocktail party and dinner tendered by the organization.

The organizational meeting concluded a series of well-attended regional meetings held in Vidalia, Albany and Rome, since October.

According to Thompson, through the new organization, practically every independent owner and operator in Georgia has been brought together and concrete plans for service to the membership exceeding anything previously undertaken by a State organization here have been formulated.

Monogram Signs 174 For 1947 Product

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1. — Five circuits with a total of 174 situations, have signed for Monogram product for 1946-47, according to an announcement by president Steve Broidy. They are: M. and P. Theatres Corp., operating 103 houses in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and New England; Chakeres Theatres, with 33 in Kentucky and Ohio; Blatt Brothers Circuit, with 18 in Pennsylvania; Long-Griffith Circuit, 12 in Texas; Scoville, Essick and Reif Circuit, with eight in Ohio.

Art Anderson Tribute

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 1.—For his efforts in bringing to a successful conclusion the local Variety club's heart hospital fund-raising campaign, an "Art Anderson Appreciation Fund" committee of Northwest Variety club has been assigned to raise money to establish a room in the hospital to be located on the University of Minnesota campus as a tribute to the retiring chief barker of the club, Art Anderson, it was disclosed this week.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

300 Attend M. and T. Circuit Celebration

MACON, Ga., Jan. 1. — More than 300 employes and guests were on hand for the Martin and Thompson circuit's fourth annual holiday dinner-dance, held at the Hotel Dempsey, here, and at which Tommy Thompson announced the company's 1946 year-end bonus plan which is payable to all employes with a minimum of one month's service. Co-owners Thompson and R. E. Martin Sr. were presented with gold pen-and-pencil sets by B. Harvard, Winder manager, on behalf of the company's managers' club.

Special guests at the affair included Buford Boone, editor of the *Macon Telegraph and News*; Arthur C. Bromberg, president, Monogram Southern Exchanges; Lex Benton, Benton Film Express; Lamar Swift, Georgia Theatres; Charles Lester, National Screen Service; Ollie Williamson, Warners; W. A. Pruitt, American Desk; Bob Goldsmith, National Theatre Supply, and others.

'It's a Joke' Opens In Austin Jan. 21

World premiere of "It's a Joke, Son" initial Eagle-Lion production will take place in Austin, Texas, at the Paramount Theatre, on Tuesday, Jan. 21, simultaneously with the inaugration of Governor-elect Beauford H. Jester, it was announced today by A. W. Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion vice president and general sales manager.

Following this, the picture, made under executive supervision of Bryan Foy, E-L production vice president, will open at the Aztec Theatre, San Antonio, Jan. 22; Metropolitan Theatre, Houston, Jan. 23, and the Majestic, Dallas, Jan. 24. Kenny Delmar, radio's 'Senator Claghorn' who stars in the film, and June Lockhart who has the romantic lead, will head a caravan of stars from New York.

Vermont to Produce Series for 20th-Fox

Edmund H. Reek, vice-president and producer of 20th Century-Fox Movietone News, has appointed Boris Vermont to supervise the production of a series of special short subjects.

Until now, Vermont has been associated with 20th Century-Fox as head of the foreign versions department. Prior to that he was a documentary producer in Europe, and during the war he was associated with the Office of War Information.

Warner Zone Meeting

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 1. — Programs and policies for 1947 were discussed at a quarterly meeting of Warner managers in the Eastern upstate zone, which took place at the Warner Circuit Management Corp. houses in Albany, Troy and Utica attended the meeting at which zone headquarters, here. Managers of 11 manager C. J. Latta, assistant zone manager C. A. Smakwitz, and contact manager J. P. Faughnan presided.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Dec. 7			MR. HEX Leo Gorcey Huntz Hall D				GENIUS AT WORK Wally Brown Alan Carney C—61 mins. (Rev. 8/1/46)				(Reissues) KING'S ROW (Rev. 12/23/41) WILD BILL HICKOK RIDES (Rev. 12/24/41)
Dec. 14	BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW Chester Morris Trudy Marshall D—69 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Dec. Releases) LADY IN THE LAKE Robt. Motgomery Audrey Totter D—105 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)	(Re-issue) SILVER STALLION David Sharpe Janet Waldo D—56 min.			(Dec. 15 Release) FABULOUS SUZANNE Barbara Britton Rudy Valee D—71 mins. (604)	CHILD OF DIVORCE Sharyn Moffett Regis Toomey D—62 mins. (Rev. 10/21/46)	(Dec. Releases) THE RAZOR'S EDGE Tyrone Power Gene Tierney Anne Baxter Clifton Webb D—146 min. (647) (Rev. 11/20/46)	(Comet Prod.) SUSIE STEPS OUT Cleatus Caldwell David Bruce C—65 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)	(Dec. Release) TEMPTATION Merle Oberon George Brent D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/16/46))	
Dec. 21	ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT Michael Duane The Fighting Frontiersman D—61 min. (863) (Rev. 11/18/46)	SECRET HEART Claudette Colbert Walter Pidgeon D—97 mins. (Rev. 11/29/46)	SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI Elyse Knox Phil Regan M—75 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)			(Dec. 22 Release) THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas	CRIMINAL COURT Tom Conway Martha O'Driscoll D—63 mins. (Rev. 8/9/46)				
Dec. 28	SINGIN' IN THE CORN Judy Canova C—64 min. (Rev. 11/25/46)		SONG OF THE SIERRAS Jimmy Wakely 'Lasses' White O—681	BLUE SKIES Bing Crosby Fred Astaire M—107 min. (Rev. 9/26/46)		(Dec. 23 Releases) STAGECOACH TO DENVER Allan Lane Bobby Blake THAT BRENNAN GIRL James Dunn Mona Freeman D—95 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	DEADLIERTHAN THE MALE Claire Trevor Lawrence Tierney	DANGEROUS MILLIONS Kent Taylor Dona Drake D—69 min. (648) (Rev. 12/2/46)	(Crosby) ABIE'S IRISH ROSE Michael Chekhov Joanna Dru D—96 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)		THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (Color) M—105 min. (610) (Rev. 12/10/46)
Jan. 4	(Dec. Release) RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO Louis Hayward Barbara Britton (Rev. 11/27/46)		GINGER Frank Albertson Barbara Reed				(Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)			(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46)	
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)		CISCO AND THE ANGEL Gilbert Roland O	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands				(Sturges) SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd	I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou	THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)				WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean					THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 25			VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)		ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich			PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders Angela Lansbury		HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1										(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy	
Feb. 8				LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall				SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15					DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman						

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

Final Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

The decree enjoins the distributor defendants:

"From granting any license in which minimum prices for admission to a theatre are fixed . . . by the parties . . . or through arbitration . . . or in any manner."

"From agreeing with each other or with any exhibitors or distributors to maintain a system of clearance."

"From granting any clearance between theatres not in substantial competition" and, in competitive situations, from granting clearance "in excess of what is reasonably necessary to protect the licensee in the run granted."

"From further performing any existing franchise . . . and from making franchises in the future."

"From making or further performing any formula deal or master agreement."

"From performing or entering into any license in which the right to exhibit one feature is conditioned upon the licensee's taking one or more other features."

Injunctions

The defendants, as exhibitors, are enjoined:

"From making or continuing to perform pooling agreements whereby given theatres of two or more exhibitors normally in competition are operated as a unit or whereby the business policies of such exhibitors are collectively determined . . . or whereby profits from the 'pooled' theatres are dividend among the owners according to prearranged percentages."

"From continuing to own or acquiring any beneficial interest in any theatre . . . in conjunction with any other defendant" or "in conjunction with any independent where such interest shall be greater than five per cent unless such interest shall be 95 per cent or more."

"From expanding . . . present theatre holdings" except through dissolving present relationships among defendants and between defendants and independents—and then only if the court shall first find "that such acquisitions will not unduly restrain competition."

"From operating, booking or buying features . . . through any agent who is known . . . to be also acting in such manner for any other exhibitor, independent or affiliate."

Modifications

In modifying its original competitive-bidding provisions, the statutory court, composed of Federal Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright, took partial cognizance of an alternative guarantee of "some run" suggested by distributor counsel at the October hearings on the final decree. To this end, the decree provides that: "A license to exhibit each feature . . . in any competitive area shall be offered to the operator of each theatre in such area who desires to exhibit it on some run (other than that upon which such feature is to be exhibited in the theatre of the licensor) selected by such operator, and upon uniform terms."

Setting up specific machinery for handling competitive bidding, the court provides that, where a run is desired, the distributor shall notify all exhibitors in the area not less than 30 days in advance of the date when bids will be received. The offer "shall state the amount of a flat rental as a minimum for such license for a specified number of days." Within 15 days after receiving the notice, any exhibitor in the area may bid, stating what run he desires and what he is willing to pay —"a flat rental, or a percentage of gross receipts, or both." The distributor may reject all offers but, in the event of acceptance of any, shall grant a license upon the run bid for "to the highest responsible bidder, having a theatre of a size, location and equipment adequate to yield a reasonable return to the licensor."

In a supplemental memorandum, the court explained that the competitive-bidding provisions have been modified "in order to meet some of the objections raised at the hearing. The decree provides an opportunity to bid for any exhibitor in a competitive area who may desire to do so," it was explained. A number of exhibitor organizations had filed *amicus-curiae* briefs objecting to the so-called "auction" sales, and the American Theatres Association and Confederacy of Southern Associations had sought to intervene in the case, threatening to appeal to the Supreme Court when their petition was denied.

Supporting their plea for voluntary continuance of the industry arbitration system, the judges pointed out in their memorandum that: "These tribunals have dealt with trade disputes, particularly those as to clearance and runs, with rare efficiency, as both government counsel and counsel for other parties have conceded. Indeed, the arbitration system set up under the consent decree of Nov. 20, 1940, was created pursuant to the prayer of the amended and supplemental complaint by the United States filed Nov. 14, 1940. . . . We strongly recommend that some such system be continued in order to avoid cumbersome and dilatory court litigation and to preserve the practical advantages of the tribunals created by the consent decree."

In a separate section of the final decree, the court rules: "The provisions of the existing consent decree are hereby declared to be of no further force or effect, except insofar as may be necessary to conclude arbitration, proceedings now pending and to liquidate in an orderly manner the financial obligations of the defendants and the American Arbitration Association. . . . Existing awards and those made pursuant to the pending proceedings shall continue to be enforceable."

While continuance of the arbitration system had been urged by the defendants, it was opposed by the Department of Justice.

As requested by several exhibitor organizations, the final decree provides a 20 per cent cancellation privilege, stating: "To the extent that any of the features have not been trade shown prior to the granting of the license for more than a single feature, the licensee . . . shall be given the right to reject 20 per cent of such features not trade shown prior to the granting of the license, such right to be exercised . . . within 10 days after there has been an opportunity . . . to inspect the feature."

As requested by the defendants, the court continues to retain jurisdiction in the case "for the purpose of enabling any of the parties to the judgment, and no others, to apply to the court at any time for such orders or direction as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction, modification, or carrying out of the same, for the enforcement of compliance therewith, and for the punishment of violations therefor, and for other or further relief."

The so-called "policing" of the decree by the Department of Justice is provided by the court, with the government permitted access to books, ledgers, accounts, correspondence, memoranda and other documents of the defendants, plus the right to interview company officers and employes. Information thus obtained is to be divulged only in the course of legal proceedings.

History of Industry Suit

The government anti-trust suit against the industry dates back to July 20, 1938, when the then assistant U. S. Attorney General Thurman Arnold, filed the suit in New York Federal District Court. Discussions of a consent decree were initiated late that year and continued at intervals throughout 1939 and into the early part of 1940.

The negotiations of a consent decree collapsed in the spring of 1940 and the case went to trial on June 3, 1940. After four days in court, trial was adjourned and consent decree negotiations were resumed, being concluded in the fall, with the decree to be effective for three years.

In the early summer of 1943, prior to expiration of the three-year trial period of the decree, the government moved for discussions of a new and more drastic decree, one which would provide for affiliated theatre divorcement. The negotiations continued at intervals for more than a year, with the government moving in August, 1944, for trial of the suit. Neither the government nor the defendants were willing to compromise on the divorcement issue.

The case went to trial on Monday, Oct. 8, 1945, and trial was concluded on Nov. 20, 1945. Final briefs were filed last January.

On June 11, 1946, the three-judge statutory court handed down a unanimous 73-page opinion which hit at some trade practices, allowed that the defendants can retain those theatres in which they hold a 95 per cent interest or more, and ruled that pictures be sold individually on a competitive bidding basis.

Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law were subsequently filed with the court by the Department of Justice and the defendant companies, as well as petitions to be heard as *amicus curiae* by various exhibitor organizations, the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, Vanguard Films, and Joseph P. Day Company, auctioneers, American Theatre Association and the Southern California Theatre Owners asked to intervene.

On Oct. 21, the court began hearing oral arguments on a proposed final decree by counsel for the Department and the eight defendant companies. The opening session was highlighted by the court's asking for proposals of alternatives to the competitive bidding plan. The five theatre-owning defendants suggested an injunction against arbitrary refusal to grant some run.

The hearings concluded Oct. 24 with the court making it clear that no drastic divorce order would be forthcoming. The three judges began final study of the case and the drafting of the decree about 10 days after this and in that interval final briefs were filed by the defendants. All *amicus curiae* petitions were accepted and petitions to intervene were denied. However, ATA and the SCTOA were approved as *amicus curiae*.

Defense Appeals Are Seen Likely

Although the decree was handed down too late on Tuesday for any defense attorneys to study it carefully, indications are that appeals from some of the Federal court rulings by defendants are not unlikely. Trade observers expressed the belief that appeals may come on the theatre divestiture provisions and, perhaps, failure of the court to permit road shows.

Highlights Of Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

due principally to the government's unwillingness to have it continued. The court, however, strongly recommends that a comparable system be continued to preserve its advantages and to avoid litigation.

A 20 per cent cancellation right is granted to exhibitors who license more than one feature in advance of trade showings; the rejection to be exercised in order of release within 10 days after the exhibitor has had an opportunity to inspect the picture.

Maintenance of clearance by combinations is prohibited, as is the granting of clearance to theatres not in substantial competition. Unreasonable clearance cannot be enforced between competing theatres and, if challenged, the burden of sustaining the legality of such clearance is up to the distributor.

The defendants are enjoined from: fixing minimum admissions; from performing existing franchises or making new ones; from making formula deals or master agreements; from conditioning the licensing of one feature on the licensing of another (single picture selling); from engaging in theatre pooling deals;

Defendants' theatres are prohibited from participating in film buying combines, but combines, as such, are not outlawed.

Divorcement provisions unchanged. Defendants must dispose of theatres owned more than five per cent but less than 95 per cent.

Theatre expansion by defendants conditioned upon court approval.

Road showings are not mentioned.

Text of Salient Provisions of Decree

Court Adheres To Original June Opinion

COMPLETE text of the salient provisions of the final decree in U. S. vs. Paramount et al. follows:

"It is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed, as follows:

"The complaint is dismissed as to the defendants Screen Gems, Inc., and the corporation named as Universal Pictures Company, Inc., merged during the pendancy of this case into the defendant Universal Corporation. The complaint is also dismissed as to all claims made against the remaining defendants herein based upon their acts as producers, whether as individuals or in conjunction with others.

Price Fixing

"Each of the defendant distributors is hereby enjoined:

"1. From granting any license in which minimum prices for admission to a theatre are fixed by the parties, either in writing or through a committee, or through arbitration, or upon the happening of any event or in any manner or by any means."

Clearance

"2. From agreeing with each other or with any exhibitors or distributors to maintain a system of clearances; the term 'clearance' as used herein meaning the period of time stipulated in license contracts which must elapse between runs of the same feature within a particular area or in specified theatres."

"3. From granting any clearance between theatres not in substantial competition.

"4. From granting or enforcing any clearance against theatres in substantial competition with the theatre receiving the license for exhibition in excess of what is reasonably necessary to protect the licensee in the run granted. Whenever any clearance provision is attacked as not legal under the provisions of this decree, the burden shall be upon the distributor to sustain the legality thereof."

Franchise Agreements

"5. From further performing any existing franchise to which it is a party and from making any franchises in the future. The term 'franchise' as used herein means a licensing agreement or series of licensing agreements, entered into as part of the same transaction, in effect for more than one picture season and covering the exhibition of pictures released by one distributor during the entire period of the agreement."

Formula Deals and Master Agreements

"6. From making or further performing any formula deal or master agreement to which it is a party. The term 'formula deal' as used herein means a licensing agreement with a circuit of theatres in which the license fee of a given theatre is measured for the theatre covered by the agreement by a specified percentage of the feature's national gross. The term 'master agreement' means a licensing agreement, also known as a 'blanket deal' covering the exhibition of features in a number of theatres usually comprising a circuit."

Single Sales

"7. From performing or entering into any license in which the right to exhibit one feature is conditioned upon the licensee's taking one or more other features. To the extent that any of the features have not been trade shown prior to the granting of the license for more than a single feature, the licensee shall be given by the licensor the right to reject twenty per cent of such features not trade shown prior to the granting of the license, such right of rejection to be exercised in the order of release within ten days after there has been an opportunity afforded to the licensee to inspect the feature."

Some Run

"8. From licensing in the future any feature for exhibition in any theatre, not its own, or in any manner except the following:

"(a) A license to exhibit each feature released for public exhibition in any competitive area shall be offered to the operator of each theatre in such area who desires to exhibit it on some run (other than that upon which such feature is to be exhibited in the theatre of the licensor) selected by such operator, and upon uniform terms.

"(b) Each license shall be granted solely upon the merits and without discrimination in favor of affiliates, old customers, or others;

Competitive Bidding

"(c) Where a run is desired, or is to be offered, upon terms which exclude simultaneous exhibition in competing theatres, the distributor shall notify, not less than thirty days in advance of the date when bids will be received, all exhibitors in the competitive area, offering to license the features upon one or more runs, and in such offer shall state the amount of a flat rental as the minimum for such license for a specified number of days of exhibition, the time when the exhibition is to commence and the availability and clearance, if any, which will be granted for each such run. Within fifteen days after receiving such notice, any exhibitor in such competitive area may bid for such license, and in his bid shall state what run such exhibitor desires and what he is willing to pay for such feature, which statement may specify a flat rental, or a percentage of gross receipts, or both, or any other form of rental, and shall also specify what clearance such exhibitor is willing to accept, the time and days when such exhibitor desires to exhibit it, and any other offers which such exhibitor may care to make. The distributor may reject all offers made for any such feature, but in event of the acceptance of any, the distributor shall grant such license upon the run bid for to the highest responsible bidder, having a theatre of a size, location and equipment adequate to yield a reasonable return to the licensor. The method of licensing specified in this subdivision shall not be required in areas where there is no competition among theatres or in run, or in which there is no offer made by any exhibitor within the time above mentioned. The words 'exclude simultaneous exhibition' shall be held to mean the exhibition of a specified run in one theatre with clearance over other theatres in the competitive area. The words 'competitive area' shall refer to the territory occupied by more than one theatre in which it may fairly and reasonably be said that such theatres compete with each other for the exhibition of features on any run."

"(d) Each license shall be offered and taken theatre by theatre and picture by picture.

"(e) A theatre is not a defendant's own theatre unless it owns therein a legal or equitable interest of ninety-five per cent or more, either directly or through affiliates or subsidiaries.

Refusal of Run

"9. From arbitrarily refusing the demand of an exhibitor, who operates a theatre in competition with another theatre not owned or operated by a defendant distributor, or its affiliate or subsidiary, made by registered mail, addressed to the home office of the distributor, to license a feature to him for exhibition on a run selected by the exhibitor, instead of licensing it to another exhibitor for exhibition in his competing theatre on such run. Such demand shall be deemed to have been refused either upon the receipt by the exhibitor of a refusal in writing or upon the expiration of ten days after the receipt of the exhibitor's demand."

Defendant Exhibitors

"Each of the defendant exhibitors . . . is hereby enjoined and restrained:

"(1) From performing or enforcing agreements referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the foregoing section II hereof to which it may be a party.

"(2) From making or continuing to perform pooling agreements whereby given theatres of two or more exhibitors normally in competition are operated as a unit or whereby the business policies of such exhibitors are collectively determined by a joint committee or by one of the exhibitors or whereby profits of the 'pooled' theatres are divided among the owners according to prearranged percentages.

"(3) From making or continuing to perform agreements that the parties may not acquire other theatres in a competitive area where a pool operates without first offering them for inclusion in the pool.

"(4) From making or continuing leases of theatres under which it leases any of its theatres to another defendant or to an independent operating a theatre in the same competitive area in return for a share of the profits.

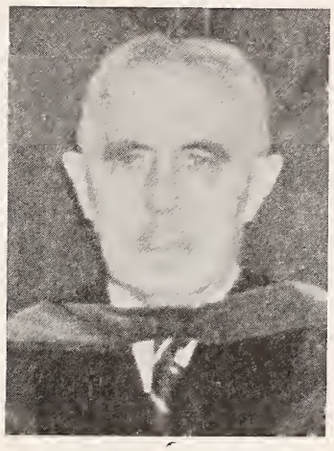
Divestiture

"(5) From continuing to own or

(Continued on page 10)

U. S. Jurists Who Made the Decision

Judge H. W. Goddard



Judge A. N. Hand

Judge John Bright

Court Adheres

(From preceding page)

acquiring any beneficial interest in any theatre, whether in fee or shares of stock or otherwise, in conjunction with another defendant, and from continuing to own or acquire such an interest in conjunction with an independent (meaning any former, present or putative motion picture theatre operator which is not owned or controlled by the defendant holding the interest in question), where such interest shall be greater than five per cent unless such interest shall be ninety-five per cent or more. The relationships between the defendants and independents which violate this provision shall be terminated by a sale to, or purchase from the co-owner or co-owners, or by a sale to a party not one of the other defendants. In dissolving relationships among defendants and between defendants and independents which violate this provision, one defendant may acquire the interest of another defendant or independent if such defendant desiring to acquire such interest shall show to the satisfaction of the court, and the court shall first find, that such acquisition will not unduly restrain competition in the exhibition of feature motion pictures. Each of the defendants shall submit to this court within six months a statement outlining the extent to which it has complied and the manner in which it proposes to comply with this provision, setting forth in detail the names, locations, and general descriptions of the theatres, corporate securities, and beneficial interests of any kind involved, the sales thereof that it has made, and such interests as it proposes to acquire, with a statement of facts regarding each competitive situation involved in such proposed acquisition sufficient to show the probable effect of such acquisition on that situation. Similar reports shall be made quarterly thereafter until this provision shall have been fully complied with. Reasonable notice of such acquisition plans shall be served upon the Attorney General and plaintiff shall be given an opportunity to be heard with respect thereto before any such acquisition shall be approved by the court.

"(6) From expanding its present theatre holdings in any manner whatsoever except as permitted in the preceding paragraph.

"(7) From operating, booking, or buying features for any of its theatres through any agent who is known by it to be also acting in such manner for any other exhibitor, independent or affiliate.

Show Cases

"Nothing contained in this decree shall be construed to limit, in any way whatsoever, the right of each distributor-defendant to license, or in any way to arrange or provide for, the exhibition of any or all the motion pictures which it may at any time distribute, in such manner, and upon such terms, and subject to such conditions as may be satisfactory to it, in any theatre in which such distributor defendant has or may acquire pursuant to the terms of this decree, a proprietary interest of 95 per cent or more either directly or through subsidiaries."

Nullifies Existing Decree

Section five decrees that: "The provisions of the existing consent decree are hereby declared to be of no further force or effect, except insofar as may be necessary to conclude arbitration proceedings now pending and to liquidate in an orderly manner the financial obligations of the defendants and the American Arbitration Association, incurred in the establishment of the consent decree arbitration system Existing awards and those made pursuant to pending proceedings shall continue to be enforceable. But this shall in no way preclude the parties or any other persons from setting up a reasonable system of arbitration either through the use of the present boards or any others as among themselves."

Judgment Stayed 60 Days

In the concluding paragraph, the the Court ruled: "The operation of this judgment is stayed for 60 days from the date hereof, and, if an appeal is taken, for 30 days thereafter in order to enable any appellant to move before the Supreme Court for a stay in respect to any portion of the judgment from which an appeal has been taken."

Reviews

"Stagecoach to Denver"

(Republic)

REPUBLIC'S latest Red Ryder offering, adequately sprinkled with gunplay, hard riding and the other action elements that characterize standard Western fare, serves up, additionally, some extra kiddie appeal in the persons of a couple of likeable youngsters, Bobby Blake, who plays Red's little Injun "sidekick" named "Little Beaver," and Bobbie Hyatt, in the role of an orphan lad who becomes the innocent victim of the machinations of a ruthless stage-coach owner. Handsome Allan Lane plays the dashing, straight-shooting Red Ryder to the hilt, and the ladies in the piece include Peggy Stewart, as a pretty confederate of the villian, and Martha Wentworth, as a trusting middle-aged townswoman. Bewhiskered Emmet Lynn is entrusted with some mild comedy moments.

The proceedings have to do with villian Roy Barcroft's land-grabbing propensities. He arranges to have one of his stagecoaches destroyed on the road in order to kill an honest land commissioner. Young Hyatt, also a passenger, is the only survivor but is seriously injured. The "accident" arouses Red's suspicions; he starts to check up, and before long is mixing with Barcroft and his henchmen. Needless to say, in the end Barcroft is exposed as a land stealer and is brought to a just defeat. R. G. Springsteen directed; Sidney Picker was associate producer.

Running time, 56 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Dec. 23.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Johnny O'Clock"

(J.E.M. Production-Columbia)

SPARKED by Dick Powell and Evelyn Keyes in the top roles, and embroidered with a strong supporting cast, "Johnny O'Clock" is the kind of film which falls in step with the dominant trend toward hard-slugging, tight-lipped thrillers. And there is no doubt that Columbia herein has a tightly-knit, suspenseful melodrama of the type which has been registering well with theatre-goers, and is bound to bring smiles to exhibitors as they hear the coins bouncing in the their tills.

Modeled on the gangster-type plots of pre-war vintage, the film offers Dick Powell as the egoistic, terse-spoken overseer and junior partner in a lavish gambling house, who is also involved, with Jim Bannon, a corrupted cop, in shaking down other gambling houses. Two murders follow Bannon's announcement that he is planning to break off with Powell and "muscle-in" on the larger racket, headed by Thomas Gomez; one corpse is Bannon, the other is his girl-friend, Nina Foch, whose death appears to be suicide. With suspicion pointing at Powell and Gomez, who are ostensibly partners, the action winds up with a gun-battle between the two and a few gripping moments while Powell, the victor, oscillates between shooting his way to freedom past the law, represented by Lee J. Cobb, or surrendering himself to stand trial and also to atone for his other illegal activities.

While the story-line, concocted by Milton Holmes, is a bit thin in spots, it holds up well in the telling, particularly because of the direction and scenario, by Robert Rossen. Edward G. Nealis produced, with Holmes as associate. Also in the cast is Ellen Drew.

Performances are generally good and, fortunately, brutality and violence, which have been cropping up to an increasing degree in current fare, is suggested, but it is kept down to a minimum.

Running time, 85 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

Coast Unions

(Continued from page 1)

Council to meet tomorrow for general discussion of the issues at stake. However, producers will not attend the meeting, their reply to the invitation saying, in part: "Anxious as we are for the end of the strike, we do not feel we have any proper place at the conference you have called." All along the producers' stand has been that settlement could be effected only by the unions involved.

In the meanwhile, Byron Price, vice-president here of the Motion Picture Association, issued a New Year's statement in which he revealed that 10 major studios have issued during the year lump-sum retroactive paychecks aggregating $17,000,000 to 18,500 employes. Recipients were members of 43 unions and guilds.

Additional payments totaling $1,600,000 will be made to members of five other unions when final contracts are signed, Price said.

German Film Starts In British Zone

By HUBERTUS ZU LOEWENSTEIN

BERLIN, Dec. 27 (By Airmail).—The first German picture to be produced in the British zone of occupation is now in work. It is called "Zugvoegel" ("Migrating Birds") and is directed by Rolf Meyer, for release by "Studio 45." There are no stars in this picture. The "migrating birds" are the young people of today; therefore unknowns are being used.

The difficulties German pictures encounter are the same everywhere. Meyer had to start out with 20 nails and he never got any more. Each one had to be treated as a little irreplaceable treasure, carefully saved and used again.

An international film club has just been founded in Berlin. Its opening was attended by Erich Pommer, U. S. head of German production, German actors and producers, and officers representing the four occupying powers.

A Swiss organization, founded a year ago for "the reestablishment of the German actors' guild" has published its first annual report showing that 13,500 pounds of food, clothes and other items have been distributed among German stage and screen actors in the American, British and French zones.

Screen Guild Prod. Expanding Abroad

Screen Guild Productions, organized about 18 months ago, has broken considerable ground in its development of outlets in Europe with franchise deals already closed in some situations and others pending, according to William Pizor, foreign sales manager, who returned here recently from the Coast.

Pizor said he will leave here about Jan. 20 for a complete tour of the Continent in behalf of further franchise arrangements for the company, whose 1946-'47 program is now set at 20 to 24 films.

Distribution deals on a franchise basis to date have been signed with groups in Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Italy, among others, Pizor said. The arrangements cover the company's entire program and in certain instances transactions call for an advance against a percentage, he said.

Authorize New Station

MIDDLEBORO, KY., Jan. 1. — The Federal Communications Commission has tentatively authorized the Pinnacle Broadcasting Co. here to operate a new station on 1400 kilocycles, 250 watts, unlimited time. The Cumberland Gap Broadcasting Co., which has applied for the same allocation, has a right to appeal the tentative decision within 30 days.

New Radiant Offices

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—The opening of New York and San Francisco branch offices has just been announced by the Radiant Manufacturing Corp., makers of projection screens. The New York and San Francisco offices will be under the supervision of District Managers, Harry Millar and Jack Neuman, respectively.

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"The Razor's Edge" appeared as the standout among first-runs at normal admission prices in a week that included New Year's Eve performances. Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 1:

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,900)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $34,500. (Average: $19,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 5 days. Gross: $11,500. Average for 7 days: $14,000)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $7,700)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $7,600).
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) — FOX-WILSHIRE (2,360) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,700)
TEMPTATION (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,100. (Average: $8,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $31,500. (Average: $23,700)
TEMPTATION (U) — IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,600. (Average: $11,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $53,500. (Average: $26,200)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $24,600)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $10,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,100)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,800)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio) and SUNSET PASS (RKO Radio) — ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $16,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $34,800. (Average: $23,100)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $37,000. (Average: $24,100)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,400)
TEMPTATION (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $9,300)
TEMPTATION (U) — STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,200. (Average: $8,000)
TEMPTATION (U) — UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $15,100)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $12,500)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,100. (Average: $8,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,600. (Average: $21,600)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,100)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,300. (Average: $15,700)

PHILADELPHIA

Christmas business was the best in several years, with New Year's Day also breaking records. The new Pix Theatre opened this week with a two-a-day showing of "Henry V." Estimated receipts for the week ending Dec. 31-Jan. 1:

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-95c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $14,000)
THE VERDICT (WB)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $7,250)
UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $31,500. (Average: $22,800)
VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Louis Prima. Gross: $47,500. (Average, for 7 days: $22,800)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $50,000. (Average: $28,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $26,000)
RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $7,800)
THE DARK MIRROR (International)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $45,000. Average: $28,300)
HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days. Gross: $12,000.
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $24,900)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $11,200)

BOSTON

Snow and sleet over the weekend dipped grosses badly, but midnight shows on New Year's Eve helped somewhat toward recovery. Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 1:

WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10) With stage show: Earl Carroll Vanities for 1947. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $24,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c) Gross: $5,300. (Average: $6,900)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $24,600. (Average: $25,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and SO DARK THE NIGHT (Col.)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $21,200. (Average: $23,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,100)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and SO DARK THE NIGHT (Col.)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $14,200. (Average: $16,900)

ST. LOUIS

"The Razor's Edge" and "The Show-Off" divided top honors this week. Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 31:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 5th week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000)
THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.) and EARL CARROLL'S SKETCHBOOK (Rep.)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,614) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $12,500)
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE BIG SLEEP (WB) and OF HUMAN BONDAGE (WB)—SHUBERT (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,500)

CLEVELAND

Clear weather and six new pictures boosted theatres back to boom business. "The Razor's Edge" established a new record at the RKO Allen. Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 31-Jan. 1:

STRANGE WOMAN (UA) — LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, with New Year's Eve midnight show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,000)
SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) — LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $23,800)
THE CHASE (UA)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000)
HENRY V (UA)—MALL (700) ($1.25-$1.85-$2.50) 7 days. Road show. Gross: $10,000.
RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c and 85c on New Year's Eve) 7 days. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $12,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $21,400)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c and 85c for New Year's Eve midnight show) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $22,600)
THE WESTERNER (Film Classics) — WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c and 85c for New Year's Eve midnight show) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $3,650)

DENVER

Most grosses are above average despite severe cold weather and snow over the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 31:

NOBODY LIVES FOREVER (WB) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.) — ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $4,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) — DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,500)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and THE COCKEYED MIRACLE (M-G-M) — ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $15,500)
GALLANT JOURNEY (Col.) and LADY CHASER (PRC) — PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU (Rep.) and MY DOG SHEP (Screen Guild)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000)

50% Tax Slash

(*Continued from page* 1)

a fire." Several Republicans have already gone on record in opposition to any luxury tax cut "until personal and corporation taxes have been lowered."

The President's surprise move places the new Congress "a step backwards," it was indicated in Republican quarters. Rep. Harold Knutson, (Rep., Minn.), incoming chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, asserted that the President's action would "necessitate a complete re-appraisal of the entire tax picture." Asked if he thought the incoming Republican committee would be willing to accept the 50 per cent reduction in admission taxes, Knutson reverted to his foregoing statement.

The excise tax cut will cost the Treasury more than $250,000,000 each year in taxes. Knutson has already given the priority for tax reduction, and he had placed excise taxes last on the docket.

Officials at the Motion Picture Association here appeared to be "extremely pleased" with the President's proclamation. However, in view of the apparent Republican antagonism to the tax cutting, there is strong possibility that the wartime increases will be reimposed by the newly-elected Congress.

Chambliss H. Collier

MEMPHIS, Jan. 1. — Chambliss Hayden Collier, who owned and operated the Globe Theatre at Drew, Miss., died last Friday at Methodist Hospital, here, where he was admitted Christmas Eve. He was a member of the Memphis Variety Club.

Schary to RKO

(*Continued from page* 1)

head and Daniel T. O'Shea, Vanguard president, to settle this point.

Since his last four pictures were produced on the RKO Radio lot, Schary is not a newcomer to that studio. In a statement to RKO studio personnel, Schary indicated there would be a "realignment of some of our sights and change in some of our perspectives," and added: "I intend to augment our creative manpower, but there is going to be no loose, ill-considered or slashing changes in personnel." He also disclosed discussions between him and Rathvon had been held "for some weeks now," and that negotiations had been conducted with Selznick's "knowledge and approval."

Rathvon, in announcing the contract, said that ever since he took office at RKO, nearly a year ago, he had been searching for "a man of wide production experience and great creative talent" to become his associate and overseer in the "creative aspects of our work."

Segal to Century

Maurice Segal formerly of the 20th Century-Fox publicity department, has joined Century Theatres' publicity-advertising department under Edward Schreiber. He will concentrate on a new house publication which the theatre group is planning and will also double as exploiteer.

Jovan Will Produce

CHICAGO, Jan. 1. — Advance Productions, Inc., a new producing firm, has been formed by James Jovan, owner of the Monroe Theatre, loop house. Headquarters of the company have been established here. Rights to 12 plays have been acquired.

Season's Greetings
from
REPUBLIC PICTURES

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 2 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1947 TEN CENTS

Films Pose Big Problems For Congress

To Weigh Divorcement, Labor; May By-pass Tax

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Legislative measures of great importance to the industry will be reviewed by the 80th Congress, which convenes tomorrow.

A primary problem is the reduction of admission and corporation taxes. It is believed that there may be no attempt to raise the 10 per cent pre-war

(*Continued on page 5*)

US Interest in Films Widens

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The nation's capital is becoming one of the most film-conscious capitals in the world, with practically every Government department and Congress displaying an increasing interest in the industry as one of the top media of communication through which great public service can be realized.

A summary of stronger emphasis placed recently on films indicates not only an educational asset, evidenced in the use of films by the War and Navy Departments as a visual aid for training servicemen and the creation

(*Continued on page 7*)

Goldwyn Calls for World-wide Awards

"The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual awards should include pictures made all over the world and not be limited to American films," opined Samuel Goldwyn yesterday following his return here on the *Queen Elizabeth* from England. "The day is gone, or it will be gone before long," Goldwyn added, "when awards of the kind made by organizations such as the New York Film Critics (which voted Goldwyn's

(*Continued on page 7*)

ATA Favors An Appeal

Clear indication that the American Theatre Association will fight that part of the New York Federal Court decree dealing with competitive bidding was given by a spokesman for the organization yesterday. "An appeal is in order," it was said.

Thurman Arnold, counsel, is now in Washington and will come to New York next week to discuss with ATA principals the matter of appeal, first of the denial of its petition to intervene in the case and then for elimination of the bidding paragraph in the decree.

A different stand was assumed by George B. Brooks, who in association with John G. Jackson represents the Conference of Southern Associations, which like ATA is strongly opposed to bidding. Brooks said that in his opinion the decree provides considerable relief as compared with the court's original opinion. On this he was referring to clause in the decree which stipulates that bidding is to be put on an elective basis, that is, it is to be available only when exhibitors in competitive situations request it.

However, he stressed that ultimate determination of CSA's position is to be made by the membership. Robert Barton, CSA attorney, in Richmond, will meet with the group on the "practical effects of the decree," he said.

Gene Autry Forms His Own Company

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—Gene Autry has established his own independent producing company, Gene Autry Productions, to make four high-budget Westerns annually during the next two years for Columbia release. Autry will use Columbia facilities, with Armand L. Schaefer as associate producer. Autry is president of the new company, and Mitchell Hamilburg vice-president.

British PCA Aide Urged by Corfield

The American Production Code representative in Britain would be very advantageous to British producers if they expect to sell pictures in the U. S., John Corfield, J. Arthur Rank producer, said here yesterday on the eve of his departure for England

(*Continued on page 7*)

Divorcement in Five Years, Now U.S. Aim

Washington, Jan. 2.—Estimating that "complete theatre divorcement" can be obtained in approximately five years, the Department of Justice, appealing the industry anti-trust suit decision to the U. S. Supreme Court, will ask the high tribunal to impose "temporary measures to correct monopoly" during that changeover period, it was reported as Government attorneys prepared today to analyze the final decree handed down by the New York Federal District Court.

Spokesmen indicated that the Department would "yield" to a system of policing the decree if it is upheld on appeal. The government, however, will not support a system of voluntary arbitration, as requested by the New York Court, it was added.

CIEA Urges Divorcement

Far from satisfied with the terms of the industry decree handed down on Tuesday by the New York Federal Court, the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations will hold fast to its original position of backing the Department of Justice in the latter's

(*Continued on page 6*)

Distributors Weigh Appeal of Decision

The distributors embarked full-swing yesterday on interpretation and study for possibilities of appeal the New York Federal Court decree governing distributor-exhibitor business conduct with competitive bidding, for

(*Continued on page 6*)

Para. News Covers 20 Years of History

The 20-year period from 1927 to date, and all the important news events which were recorded by the newsreel cameras are the subjects of Paramount News' "Two Decades of History," which was screened for the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Holds Decree Leaves 'Much To be Desired'

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 2.—In the first professional analysis of the final decree in the New York anti-trust suit to be made public, Herman Levy, general counsel of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, declared today that "while the decree still leaves much to be desired by independent exhibitors, it is better than what might have been expected from the opinion rendered by the court in June."

"The exhibitor attack against so-called 'auction' selling had some effect," Levy states in his analysis. "This much is very important: the decree has eliminated the language of the June opinion which was susceptible of the interpretation of permitting 'auction block' selling, that is, going from theatre to theatre to get the highest bid.

"In MPTOA's final brief filed with the court we asked the judges to draw

(*Continued on page 7*)

35 Cases Now Before AAA

Although 33 cases and two appeals are still pending before the film division of the American Arbitration Association, there was no indication yesterday whether these would be the final cases set for disposition before

(*Continued on page 6*)

Decree Hits SRO's 'Duel' Road Shows

The Selznick Releasing Organization's plan to roadshow "Duel in the Sun" may be curtailed as a result of the New York Federal Court's refusal to exempt roadshows from the injunction against the fixing of admis-

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Issue

"Green for Danger" is reviewed on page 10.

Personal Mention

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount's Western division sales manager, will leave here today for Los Angeles.

•

R. BIGGERS of the Gay Theatre, Knoxville; JOHN STILLMAN, Tennessee circuit operator, and R. H. and MRS. HAYNES of the Clairmont Theatre, in that Georgia town, were recent Atlanta Film Row visitors.

•

MILTON SPERLING, president of United States Pictures, has delayed his trip to New York, from Hollywood, to confer there with BEN KALMENSON, Warner distribution vice-president, who is now on the Coast.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warners' Eastern division sales manager, and SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager, will return to New York headquarters today from a day in Albany.

•

EDYTHE FREEMAN, assistant publicity director of Warner Metropolitan theatres, and JACK SHAPIRO, will be married on Sunday and on that day will fly to Cuba for a two-week stay.

•

CHARLES C. PERRY, Paramount's special representative in Indianapolis and Cincinnati areas, will return to his headquarters in the latter city on Monday after a long illness.

•

ELMER SICHEL, Long Island booker for Century Theatres, and MRS. SICHEL are the parents of a daughter, Arline Patricia, born at Bronx Hospital, here.

•

GROVER PARSON, PRC's Southern sales manager at Atlanta, is visiting Charlotte with RALPH MCCOY, special representative of Eagle-Lion.

•

SAM SHAIN, trade press representative at 20th Century-Fox's home office, is ill with influenza.

•

RALPH RICHARDSON, British actor, has been knighted in London.

Name Glenn Mentch E-K Sales Head

Glenn W. Mentch has been appointed manager of Eastman Kodak's sales service division. Mentch's appointment took effect yesterday. He had been assistant manager of the division.

Tone - Hakim Production

Columbia Pictures will release "The Mating Call," original screenplay by Ben Hecht to be produced by Franchot Tone and Raphael Hakim. S. Sylvan Simon has been borrowed by M-G-M to direct the film, which will star Tone.

Bergman Is Promoted

CLEVELAND, Jan. 2. — Edwin R. Bergman, PRC branch manager, has been assigned to a special sales post, and Mark Goldman, manager of the PRC Pittsburgh office has been named his successor.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

THE three-judge statutory court handed the industry greetings late Tuesday afternoon, but whether the traditional "Happy New Year" will echo in the wake of the decree in the case of the U. S. of America versus Paramount Pictures, Inc., *et al* remains for experience to prove. Plus one extremely vital step—appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court by plaintiff and defendants alike.

Because it is early and on the side of caution, presumed or actual soothsayers, like this one for instance, do well to weigh their typewriters as they go.

This returns us to a safety island resorted to several times before, its text taking the form of a simple prelude which makes it clear we are no lawyer. Nevertheless, certain tentative conclusions drawn from local and long distance telephoning appear to be reasonable.

■

Distributor defendants may find themselves in position to return to that which the consent decree of 1940 and the New York decision of June 11 had ruled out—the coupling of shorts, reissues, Westerns and imports with the sale of any other feature. The June 11 decision read: *". . . nor shall any distributor defendant require an exhibitor to license shorts, reissues, Westerns or foreigns as a condition of licensing other features."* Paragraph 7, Section 2 of the final decree merely enjoins the companies: "From performing or entering into any license in which the right to exhibit one feature is conditioned upon the licensee's taking one or more other features."

The qualifying phrase, in italics which are ours, is absent. It may prove very significant.

■

Although, as anticipated, each license is to be offered theatre-by-theatre and picture-by-picture, it has been generally expected a distributor could sell blocks of five under these conditions. Already the doubt has been raised if he will do so under the 20 per cent cancellation clause in the final decree. Simple mathematics are enough to demonstrate rejection can apply only where a minimum of five is sold; 20 per cent of anything less will end up with cancellation of part of a whole feature.

Distributor attitudes in this direction, of course, are hardly available at this juncture. But, if and where an out is sought, quicksilver analysts are assuming an escape shapes up by simply not making groups of five available.

■

Speculation is on the way up, too, over the working mechanics of the ordered system of competitive bidding where the exhibitor so elects. Vested in the distributor is the right to reject all bids on a given attraction. If he does, however, he is faced with an inability to get his picture played. He is similarly obligated to set up the flat rental, minimum, which he is willing to accept. But the exhibitor, on the other hand, is privileged to declare how he intends meeting this figure—whether by agreeing to the number of dollars the distributor wants or by percentage, or some other method.

Herman Levy, for the MPTOA, here raises an interesting point. He asks how can the distributor, or anyone else for that matter, determine which is the acceptable bid if the dollars are to be arrived at by percentage which can be calculated only after the attraction has played off.

Moreover, if his interpretation is correct, Levy sees an advantage to the theatreman in that there can be only one bid from competing exhibitors, thus removing from the distributor any ideas about re-opening the barter or peddling for a higher quotation. Therefore, he foresees a condition which will establish automatic checks and balances on the cost of film and, more importantly in his view, eliminate the auction-block system over which theatre voices were raised in mighty thunder when the proposal was first advanced.

■

How the exhibitor-defendants can hope to resolve their theatre holdings, how troublesome the business of placing proof of clearance on the distributor; what about roadshows and what, precisely, defines a competitive area?—these are some of the other weighty matters currently telescoped in the cause of space and investigation. To be remembered above all else, however, is that this decree is final insofar as the New York court alone is concerned.

There is a place called Washington.

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SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S
SONG OF THE SOUTH
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JOHN FORD'S
MY DARLING CLEMENTINE
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NOW! RIVOLI B'way at 49th St. Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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All New Adventures
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A Columbia Picture
IN PERSON
Paul Small presents
SHOWTIME OF 1947
Starring THE SLATE BROS.
plus All-Star Cast

Betty Hutton
Sonny Tufts
in "Cross My Heart"
A Paramount Picture
in Person! THE ANDREWS SISTERS
LES PAUL & HIS TRIO
Plus! TONY PASTOR And Band
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"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

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MARGARET LOCKWOOD
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Shocking?
SHE'S
Sensational!

It's GRABLE GERSHWIN and GREAT.....

BETTY GRABLE

DICK HAYMES

THE Shocking MISS PILGRIM

IN TECHNICOLOR

with Anne Revere · Allyn Joslyn · Gene Lockhart

Elizabeth Patterson · Elisabeth Risdon · Arthur Shields · Charles Kemper · Roy Roberts

Written for the Screen and Directed by GEORGE SEATON · Produced by WILLIAM PERLBERG

From a Story by Ernest and Frederica Maas · Music by George Gershwin and Lyrics by Ira Gershwin · "But Not In Boston" "For You For Me, For Evermore" · "Sweet Packard" · "Tour of the Town" · "Welcome Song" · "Stand Up and Fight" "Changing My Tune" · "Aren't You Kind of Glad We Did?" · "One Two Three" · "Waltzing Is Better Sitting Down" "Waltz Me No Waltzes" · Dances Staged by Hermes Pan · Costumes Designed by Orry Kelly

All the Sensational Boxoffice Hits are Made by 20th Century-Fox

Dixie Drive-In Sets Expansion Program

ATLANTA, Jan. 2.—A meeting of executives of the Dixie Drive-In Theatres was held here this week following a luncheon at the Capital City Club. Harris Robinson, president of the rapidly growing organization revealed plans for immediate development and improvement of the drive-in theatres already in operation and the building of additional ones in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The following were at the meeting. J. H. Elwell, general manager; F. P. Roddey, Greensboro; Walter G. Meier, Savannah; L. L. Theimer, Charlotte; R. A. Edmondson, Jr., attorney; Harris Robinson, president; H. T. Posey, accountant; Horace Denning, district manager, Jacksonville; J. A. Lipson, Orlando; C. M. Elliott, Augusta.

Westinghouse Orders Video Equipment

Equipment for the first Westinghouse television station—WBZ-TV, at Boston—has been ordered from the Radio Corp. of America, according to an announcement by J. B. Conley, general manager of Westinghouse Radio Stations, Inc., a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp. Orders have been placed for a 5,000 watt video transmitter, a 2,500 watt audio transmitter, and pickup facilities for studio and remote use. In addition, a 600-foot antenna has been ordered from the Blaw Knox Co.

Henry Greenwald To Post at Classics

Henry Greenwald of Film Classics' New York exchange, has been promoted to the home office, here, to handle company-owned Western exchanges under a centralized accounting system for all Film Classics-owned branches, under comptroller David P. Weiner.

Brewer Avoids Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—The Los Angeles Inter-faith Council's effort to effect settlement of the studio strike by arbitration ran into probably an insurmountable obstacle today when IATSE's Brewer, who had promised to attend a meeting in which the organization and the CSU would participate, declined to attend and sent a letter explaining his refusal on the ground that the council had invited executives of IATSE Local 683, which had bolted the international rule and joined the strikers. The meeting was in progress tonight, however, with CSU's Sorrell, 683's Don Martin and SAG's John Dales present, the latter as an observer. Producers had previously declined the invitation.

D.E. Christ Buys Theatre

LINNEUS, Mo., Jan. 2.—Dwight E. Christ, who had been associated with the Family Theatre at Kirksville. before entering the Armed Forces, now released after five years in service, has bought the Dixie, here, from Herbert H. Newman, and will take over on Jan. 1.

New RCA Film Studio

RCA will open its new film recording studios here with a reception next Tuesday afternoon.

Films Pose Big Problems

(*Continued from page* 1)

excise rate, which was cut in half by President Truman on Tuesday when he gave up many of his war powers.

Congressman Harold Knutson of Minn., new chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, asserted that it is the mission of the GOP to cut as many taxes as "possible." This will include corporation and other business taxes, including excess profits rates.

High Republican Congressional leaders predicted here today that there will be no "additional increase" of the admissioins tax rate. While rumors here have spread that the new Congress may reimpose the excise slashes made by Truman, the Republicans discard the possibility with the assertion that it is their platform to reduce all taxes to pre-war rates as quickly as possible.

Divorcement Pattern

Coming to the forefront with theatre divorcement legislation, to be tacked on the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, will be Senator William Langer of North Dakota. The Senator said that he intends to call in exhibitor representatives to consult on the "pattern which the divorcement measure should take." Meanwhile, there is expected to be no Justice Department objection to the legislation.

With virtual elimination of all commercial construction controls in sight, Congress is not expected to act on building controls.

Labor measures are likely which will reduce the chances for jurisdictional disputes, such as the present Hollywood strike. Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, Steering Committee Chairman, and California's Senator William Knowland have both announced that "labor unions must assume responsibility with power." Knowland has threatened to introduce a law to prevent jurisdictional strikes if the Hollywood situation is not promptly cleared up.

During the past few years Congress has been rapidly swinging toward a "Federal aid to education program." This endeavor would include a sweeping visual aid project, to be handled by the U. S. Office of Education. The UOE is already cooperating with the Motion Picture Association by planning the production of educational films, at the suggestion of MPA president Eric Johnston.

Top priority will be given trade barriers imposed on American films abroad.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the House Committee on Post-War Economic Policy and Planning intend to hold hearings on "foreign film barriers." Leaders on both sides of the Congress have expressed a keen interest in the problem of free international information.

Anti-Trust laws are scheduled for an overhauling, as several committee reports made during the last Congress indicate that the Sherman and Clayton Acts are "inadequate to protect the small business man and lack the teeth to break trusts."

At the request of the Census Bureau, Congress will be asked to consider a plan for a business and manufacturers census. These censuses encountered strong opposition last summer because Republican members objected to former Commerce Secretary Henry Wallace, who would have administered the project. Scheduled to include the film industry and possibly a detailed study of exhibition, the surveys would cost more than $12,000,000. Census Bureau authorities have talked with MPA officials regarding the survey. Eric Johnston has already disclosed that the Association will soon conduct a national and international census on films. Johnston contends that the industry "knows less about itself than any other field of business."

Republican lawmakers have warned that a majority of the Government information services are due for a drastic appropriations cut. The recreated Office of Government Reports, where the Motion Picture Division is now located, may be eliminated.

Film activities in a majority of the Federal agencies will be halted. House Leader Joseph W. Martin of Mass., has indicated that the GOP will "fight every move on the part of the Administration to propagandize the American people." On the Senate side, Senator Taft has said that when the "new leadership is through, there will be less propaganda issued by the Government and more facts reaching the people."

The State Department is scheduled to have a fight to continue its cultural relations film program. Appropriations will be exhausted in July and Congress will be asked to grant more funds for the program. Even while the Democrats retained control of Congress there was a sharp slash in the State Department documentary film program. The Senate restored the cut, but such action during this session is unlikely.

No Detail Estimate

Again concerning film trade barriers, George Canty, State Department film consultant, asserted today that although it is difficult to venture now any detailed estimate of what will be the final results of the forthcoming International Trade Charter conferences, the film industry brief outlining the export problems on pictures will be given "top consideration" at the conference. The brief already has been submitted by the MPA and goes into detail to explain the trade ramifications being encountered by the industry.

Meanwhile, Claire Wilcox, director of the Office of International Trade, discloses that "considerable attention" will be paid to the problem of eliminating national trade monopolies abroad. Monopoly countries are Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Albania and Yugoslavia. There is also a tendency toward monopoly in Holland, where there is a privately-operated "film chamber of commerce," called Bioscoop Bond.

Of the six monopoly nations, U. S. films are permitted to a limited extent in Russia. Poland and Czechoslovakia have negotiated film agreements with the MPEA, which give the industry a fair deal, permitting more than 65 programs in each country yearly.

Woods in New Post For Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 2.—C. Clare Woods has been named to a newly-created post of district manager for Intermountain Theatres, by Tracy Barham, vice-president and general manager of the circuit. Woods, who became booker and buyer in 1943, will now work under the supervision of Ray M. Hendry, assistant to Barham.

Sidney L. Cohen, who has been in the operational and booking end of the business for 13 years, has been appointed to the booking-buying post made vacant by Woods' promotion. Cohen, who has been with the Washington Theatre Circuit in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Milton Mooney Cooperative of Ohio, is expected to arrive here this month to assume his new position.

Eastman, Vanguard Publicist, Is Dead

James P. Eastman, 34, assistant to Ted Balwin, director of promotion-exploitation of Vanguard Films, died yesterday at his home here.

Eastman was a captain in the Army during the late war, during which he served as an aide to Major Gen. Terry Allen in the European Theatre. Survivors include his mother and a brother, Charles. Funeral arrangements have not been set.

Eastern Pa.—So. N. J. Allied Meets Sunday

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—The annual meeting of the Allied Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey will be held at the Warwick Hotel, here, Sunday.

With Washington sessions slated for the near future, Sunday's meeting is expected to be attended by leaders of the various units of the organization.

M. R. Austin Named PRC's Denver Chief

DENVER, Jan. 2. — M. R. (Bud) Austin, who has been selling here for Producers Releasing Corp., has been promoted to local manager of that company's exchange, succeeding Eddie Ashkins, who has resigned.

Testimonial for Nolte

BALTIMORE, Jan. 2.—A testimonial dinner is to be given to C. Elmer Nolte, Jr. general manager of the Frank Durkee Circuit in Maryland on Jan. 14 at a downtown hotel, in observance of Nolte's election to the office of Illustrious Potentate of Boumi Temple.

K.C. House Damaged

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 2.—Fire near the Brookside Theatre, a Fox Midwest house, caused some damage when smoke and water seeped into the basement. New Year's afternoon and evening shows were cancelled but programs were resumed today at the usual time.

Mrs. McMahon Services

Funeral services for Emerald M. McMahon, wife of Oliver R. McMahon, RKO assistant comptroller, will take place today, at the cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury, L. I., following a Solemn Mass of Requiem in St. Agnes Church.

35 AAA Cases

(*Continued from page* 1)

the AAA begins liquidation of its tribunals under the New York Federal Court decision. The principal stumbling block which has developed in the interpretation of the decree has arisen over the issue of whether the 60-day stay in taking effect would hold the tribunals open to receive new cases until March 1.

No Comment by Braden

J. Noble Braden, executive director of the AAA's film division, said yesterday that he could offer no comment on the application or interpretation of the ruling until he had consulted with AAA attorneys on the language of the decision. He added that the day-long huddle with lawyers yesterday would be inconclusive because they had not yet examined the 45-page complementary document containing the findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Termination of current operations of the arbitration system, which has divisions in 31 cities throughout the country, was foreshadowed in the court decree in section five, declaring that the existing consent decree, under which the AAA was created in November, 1940, was to be "of no further force or effect, except insofar as may be necessary to conclude arbitration proceedings now pending and to liquidate in an orderly manner the financial obligations of the defendants and the American Arbitration Association."

'Reasonable System'

However, the decree continued, "this shall in no way preclude the parties or any other persons from setting up a reasonable system of arbitration either through the use of the present boards or any others as among themselves."

In view of the court's recommendation for establishment of a voluntary arbitration system, Braden asserted: "We have always been ready to help any industry in setting up an arbitration system." How this would be done, he added, would depend upon the requirements of the industry and would be up to the parties to determine.

'Duel' Roadshows

(*Continued from page* 1)

sion prices in license agreements, even though SRO is not a defendant in the Government suit, industry attorneys said here yesterday.

It is pointed out that the fixing of minimum admissions having been found to be illegal, actions could be brought by the Government against any non-defendant company which included a minimum admission clause in its license agreement.

However, some attorneys said they saw nothing to prevent SRO from proceeding with its scheduled roadshowings of "Duel" between now and March 1, effective date of the decree provision. Moreover, they pointed out that an appeal on the roadshow ban probably would be taken by the Society of Independent M. P. Producers or by United Artists, which is considering road-showings for "Arch of Triumph," "Carnegie Hall" and possibly other productions, and that the effective date of the injunction would be stayed by such appeals until April 1. Thereafter, there would be the possibility that the U. S. Supreme Court, if it agreed to hear such appeals, might grant a further stay pending a hearing and final ruling.

Thus, it would be possible for SRO or other distributors to license theatres for roadshowings during the next three months and possibly longer.

Theatre owning defendants, of course, may play their own pictures in their own theatres (owned 95 per cent or more) on any policy or terms they wish, including roadshowing. However, few if any of the defendants are in a position to actually conduct road-showings on a national basis in theatres owned by themselves and suitable for such a policy.

Court Findings Emphasize Divorcement Unwarranted

Granting a two-year postponement of the deadline for partial dissolution of existing partnerships between affiliated and independent theatre owners, as well as omitting the ban on cross-licensing which the Government had requested, U. S. District Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright have outlined conclusions reiterating that, in their opinion, the remedy for alleged film-company violations of the anti-trust laws lies outside the realm of divorcement, which was sought by the Department of Justice.

In 45 pages of "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law," filed along with their final decree in the New York equity case, the statutory court declares: "The illegalities and restraints herein found are not in the ownership of many or most of the best theatres by the producer-distributors, but in admission price-fixing, non-competitive granting of runs and clearances, unreasonable clearances, formula deals, master agreements, franchises, block-booking, pooling agreements, and certain discriminations among licensees between defendants and independents."

The court's "Conclusions of Law" find all the defendants—Paramount, RKO, Warners, 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Columbia, Universal and United Artists—in violation of the Sherman Act, by:

"Acquiescing in the establishment of a price-fixing system by conspiring with one another to maintain theatre admission prices"; also "conspiring with each other to maintain a nationwide system of runs and clearances which is substantially uniform in each local competitive area."

The defendants as distributors alone, their their theatre-owning subsidiaries exempt, are found to be in violation by:

"Conspiring with each other to maintain a nationwide system of fixed minimum motion picture theatre admission prices;

"Agreeing individually with their respective licensees to fix minimum motion picture theatre admission prices;

"Conspiring with each other to maintain a nationwide system of runs and clearances which is substantially uniform as to each local competitive area;

"Agreeing individually with their respective licensees to grant discriminatory license privileges to theatres affiliated with other defendants and with large circuits;

"Agreeing individually with such licensees to grant unreasonable clearance against theatres operated by their competitors;

"Making master agreements and franchises with such licensees;

"Individually conditioning the offer of a license for one or more copyrighted films upon the acceptance by the licensee of one or more other copyrighted films, except in the case of United Artists."

Also, Paramount and RKO were found to be in violation by "making formula deals."

The exhibitor-defendants were found to be in violation by;

"Jointly operating motion picture theatres with each other and with independents through operating agreements or profit-sharing leases;

"Jointly owning motion picture theatres with each other and with independents through stock interests in theatre buildings;

"Conspiring with each other and with the distributor-defendants to fix substantially uniform minimum motion picture theatre admission prices, runs and clearances;

"Conspiring with the distributor-defendants to discriminate against independent competitors in fixing minimum admission price, runs, clearance and other license terms."

Terms of the final decree handed down by the court were reported in detail yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Court Findings Cite Raising of Prices

High budget films shown at advanced admissions are cited as an example of price fixing, which is prohibited, in the "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" filed by the three-judge statutory court here Tuesday in connection with the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit.

"In the case of such exceptional features as 'Gone with the Wind,' 'For Whom the Bell Tolls,' 'Wilson' and 'Song of Bernadette,' licensed for exhibition prior to general release and as to which the distributors were not satisfied with current prices, they would refuse to grant licenses unless the prices were raised," the court pointed out.

Scophony Postponement

Hearing on a petition of Scophony, Ltd., for dismissal of cross-complaints brought by Scophony Corp. of America and Arthur H. Levy, its president, in connection with the Government's Scophony anti-trust suit, which was scheduled for Dec. 31, has been further postponed until Jan. 7.

Taunton, Mass., May Tax

HARTFORD, Jan. 2.—Peter B. Gay, Taunton, Mass., councilman, has proposed an ordinance in Taunton that would tax theatres and other places of amusements extra amounts for Sunday operating.

Distributors Weigh

(*Continued from page* 1)

the most part the immediate focal point, envisioned by company lawyers as the most drastic potential change in film operations.

"Chaotic conditions" would present themselves at the outset of the institution of such selling, one film lawyer predicted. All agreed that competitive bidding will doubtless be a vast departure from present selling and will be difficult to establish, however eventually workable.

Complications Expected

Although the court ruled bidding to be adopted only in such instances as where it is requested by exhibitors, M-G-M's experiments in that type of selling were pointed to as evidence of various complications which might be expected.

In the case of M-G-M, theatremen numbering in the hundreds requested sealed bidding on certain pictures. The many factors which had to be weighed included present run, type of operation and potential revenue returns, particularly where a fourth or fifth run house outbid a prior run. These requests came from scattered parts of the country, rather than being concentrated in a few areas.

All lawyers made it clear that it is too early to set a course of action. First to be taken up, they said, are interpretation of the phraseology and consultations with their client companies, and then consideration of the possibilities of appeal.

Meeting Probable

In all probability a meeting of counsel for the five-theatre owning defendants will be held early next week.

Thomas Turner Cooke, counsel for Universal, was the first to express himself on the likelihod of appeal, but made it clear that any move would have to be consented to by his client. Cooke said that probably he will file a motion for amended findings and accordingly amended judgment on at least that part of the decree which declares illegal franchise deals with independent exhibitors. "I believe, also," he added, "that we should later take an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court on the whole decree."

Cooke said he "has every reason to believe" that the decree is illegal in that it "exerted the powers of a legislative body."

Lawyers in many cases construed the court's document as one which would seriously discourage top-scale productions which ordinarily would be designed for road-showing. Without roadshows producers would have no reasonable guarantee of adequate returns for multi-million dollar films, they said.

CIEA Urges

(*Continued from page* 1)

pursuit of divorcement, according to competent sources here.

The group, which comprises National Allied and the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, among others, contends that competitive bidding as dictated by the decision is "wholly unworkable," it was said, since it would not be conducted on a flat-rental basis.

Services for Mrs. O'Neill

A funeral mass was celebrated yesterday at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City for Mrs. Robert Seton O'Neill, wife of the publicist for Loew's State Theatre here.

Holds Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

the final decree so as not to include any language susceptible of the interpretation complained of. I feel that the decree as now worded does not open the door to 'auction block' selling. It is true that competitive bidding is provided for under certain circumstances, but that is a quite dofferent procedure from the 'auction block'."

"The decree places upon the distributor the burden of proving that the clearance granted is legal," Levy's analysis continues. This latter is a distinct exhibitor advantage. All the exhibitor has to do is to charge illegality of a particular clearance and it is then up to the distributor to prove otherwise. This greatly lessens the exhibitor's burden in litigation or in arbitration.

"While distributors may not condition the right to exhibit one feature upon the taking of one or more other features, please note that this concerns only features and not shorts, newsreels, etc."

"The 20 per cent cancellation privilege," Levy points out, "is a fruitless victory unless the distributors decide to license five or more pictures at a time. There is certainly nothing in the wind today to indicate that there will be a swing away from the present trend of releasing and licensing one feature at a time. Also, where competitive bidding applies, the necessity of making certain that the highest bid has been received from the same exhibitor on each of the five or more features in a group presents such mechanical difficulties to distributors as to be most discouraging and impractical, if not impossible of accomplishment."

His Own Views

Levy, whose analysis represent his own, and not MPTOA's official views, said of the competitive bidding arrangements set forth in the decree: "The distributors must offer to all exhibitors in the same competitive area their terms for each run requested by the exhibitors, except of course the run chosen by the distributors for their own houses. This means, in effect, that any exhibitor in a designated competitive area has the privilege of requesting the terms for any run he wishes whether he has theretofore had that run or not. Conceivably, an exhibitor with a fifth run neighborhood house may bid for second run or even first run if the particular distributor has no theatre in that town or for some reason does not choose to show the picture in its own house.

"This provision is actually one of guaranty of some run and is most important to all exhibitors. It means that the exhibitor may name his run and the distributor must offer to him the same terms for that run that the distributor is offering to any other exhibitor in that competitive area for that particular run."

Levy declares, however, that the decree's provisions for determining a successful bidder are, in his opinion, "impractical and almost impossible of fulfillment. How, for example," he asks, "will a distributor be able to determine the highest bidder of three theatres all able to give the distributor 'a reasonable return,' in the face of one offer of $750 flat rental, a second of 40 per cent of the gross and a third offer of a flat rental figure against a percentage?

"It is not difficult to realize how soon unsuccessful bidders will be starting their trips to the court house, especially with arbitration discarded as part of the decree. We can, at least, from this point, anticipate no end of litigation in an industry already sorely tried by it."

Levy finds that the court restrainer upon defendants' theatre expansion, which must not "unduly restrain competition in exhibition," to be "much stricter than the consent decree provisions" and the court's June opinion, which permitted expansion in order to protect investments or to enter a competitive field.

Commenting on the court's restrainer against defendants' theatres belonging to buying or booking combines, Levy says: "Whether or not a court would also condemn these combines when made up solely of 'independents' cannot be predicted, but the language used by this court in its opinion, as distinguished from this decree, would certainly seem to indicate that these judges thought so."

Levy said that MPTOA regrets the termination of industry arbitration and had hoped that a way of continuing it would be found by the court. Consequently, he says, "we are ready to join forces with other exhibitor groups and with the distributors to attempt to bring to the industry a system of arbitration as outlined" (by the court).

The analysis points out that while July 1 is the effective date for competitive bidding, the system is legal now and a distributor may begin selling that way immediately if he wishes to, but must do so by July 1.

Coast Leaders Await Complete Decree Text

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—Exhibition leaders here today were awaiting receipt of the complete text of the final decree in the anti-trust case before making any comment. Paul Williams, general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, and Robert Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference, Independent Theatre Owners, indicated they would not make statements until they have taken it up with their memberships at meetings to be called shortly.

Donald Nelson, President of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, likewise was withholding comment until the full text is received.

See Million Gross By 'Edge' at Roxy

Predicting a gross of more than $1,000,000 by the end of the eighth week of "The Razor's Edge" at the Roxy Theatre in New York, A. J. Balaban and Irving Lesser, directors of the theatre, yesterday announced that the 20th Century-Fox film rolled up "a sensational net gross" of $175,634 in its sixth week, ending last Tuesday. This is $10,369 better than the all-time world's high for a week's gross, set by the Darryl F. Zanuck production during its second week at the Roxy, they added.

The picture has now piled up a total net gross of $804,-032 during the first six weeks of its engagement, the theatre's directors asserted.

Para. News

(*Continued from page* 1)

trade press and home office personnel here yesterday.

Prepared by A. J. Richard, Paramount News editor-in-chief, and utilizing a documentary format, the scenes were culled from some 14,000,000 feet of newsreel film and took over two months of preparation.

Opening with nostalgic shots of feminine fashions of the 1927 period and the reception accorded Charles Lindbergh after his trans-Atlantic flight, the camera brings to the screen a full panorama of national events during the past 20 years. These scenes include the stock market crash and the ensuing depression, the Coolidge days, the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the NRA, TVA, AAA and other agencies which revolutionized the American social and economic order.

Events Leading to War

Following this is a pictorial report on international events—events which were to lead to the second World War. These include the conquest of Manchuria by the Japanese, the rise to power of Hitler and Mussolini, the ruthless crushing of Ethiopia, Hitler's march into Poland and Russia, and Chamberlain's and Daladier's appeasement pleas for "peace in our time."

The latter part of the reel is concerned with the war, the bombing of London, the suffering of civilians, Pearl Harbor, the death and funeral of the late President Roosevelt, and the surrender of the Axis powers. Finally there are scenes of a world working for permanent peace through the United Nations.

Running 22 minutes, "Two Decades of History" is a poignant and graphically presented newsreel-documentary into which has been incorporated all the elements of drama, nostalgia and color of contemporary history. It is set for national release tomorrow.

Samuel Goldwyn

(*Continued from page* 1)

"The Best Years of Our Lives" as the "best picture of 1946") will distinguish between films made in different countries."

The producer said he was "highly pleased" by the selection of his film and its director, William Wyler as "best director" by the New York critics. He approved also the award to Laurence Olivier and Celia Johnson of British films.

"Best Years," Goldwyn said, is slated to open in London, at the Leicester Square, around mid-February on a reserved-seat basis. He said he presented a print of the film to Prime Minister Clement Attlce's wife for a charity showing. While in England, Goldwyn visited with the J. Arthur Rank family, he said.

Goldwyn added that he will leave New York for the Coast next week to begin preparations for his 1947 schedule. He declined to estimate the number of pictures he will produce this year.

British PCA Aide

(*Continued from page* 1)

on the *Queen Elizabeth*. During the past month Corfield has been in this country surveying industry conditions.

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, during his recent visit to England recommended to the British that an American PCA representative be established in that country. At present the British industry is weighing the Johnston proposal. Corfield holds that "it would be a good thing" to have an American industry representative serving in an advisory capacity in England, particularly insofar as script dialogue is concerned.

To Make Two

Corfield, who produces for Eagle-Lion distribution, both here and in England, said he will make two pictures in 1947 in England. His "Bedelia" will be released here shortly under the Eagle-Lion banner. "The Milk-White Unicorn," starring possibly Phyllis Calvert, will be started by Corfield upon his return to England. Corfield said his pictures will be bugeted at approximately $450,000 each, with cast costs to be additional. "High Pavement" will be his second 1947 production, he said.

Corfield said that while he was in the U. S. he saw no signs of discrimination against British pictures, and added that he favors free exchange of films between this country and Britain. He said he believes in the slanting of pictures toward the international market rather than confining their appeal to one country.

Under the reciprocity arrangement established between the British and American Eagle-Lion companies, the American unit's "It's a Joke, Son," will be released in England next month, Corfield said.

US Interest

(*Continued from page* 1)

of a special picture division in the Office of Government Reports by President Truman, but also an economic value attached to the industry, as witnessed in reports from Commerce Department experts that 1947 will be "the biggest year in film history" in a money sense. And Treasury Department admission tax returns show an upward climb, while reports from the Government on industry dividend payments record that these have doubled during the past eight months.

Top Priority

Moreover, top priority is being devoted to films at the State Department, where George Canty is working daily to eliminate foreign trade barriers imposed against American product.

Interior Department handling of the coal strike suggested the high regard Government officials hold for motion pictures as an "essential feature" in the social and economic life, and additional support for educational value in molding public opinion and for transmitting new ideas are contained in plans being worked out at the U. S. Office of Education, while the Motion Picture Association and the Agriculture Department plan the production of several pictures to educate farmers, the Justice Department pleas for cooperation in a youth delinquency and Americanism film program.

Salesmen's Group Not Unionizing

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Arthur M. Van Dyke, Chicago sales manager for 20th Century-Fox Films, and recently elected president of the Colosseum of Motion Picture Salesmen of America, reports that his organization is not contemplating affiliation with any labor union for at least another year.

Stating that the organization is strictly one organized for the welfare of the country's film salesmen, Van Dyke said that 13 film-salesmen's groups throughout the country, comprising a membership of nearly 500, are now affiliated with the Colosseum. Van Dyke said that the objective for this year would be to gain representation in all 31 exchanges centers throughout the country.

Van Dyke succeeded Frank W. Solley as president in the national convention held recently in St. Louis. Solley, with RKO Radio in Atlanta, was elected executive treasurer. Mel Keller of Portland, Ore., was elected executive vice-president and N. Provencher of Milwaukee was elected executive secretary.

A vice-president and a committeeman for each of four districts were also elected. They are: Eastern district, Roos Williams, Cincinnati, vice-president and George Nathan, Washington, committeeman; Midwest District, Sam Resnick, vice-president, and Pat Halloran, Minneapolis, commiteeman; Southern district, E. E. Shinn, New Orleans, vice-president, and Joel Bluestone, New Orleans, committeeman; Western district, Floyd Bernard, San Francisco, vice-president, and Bill Warner, Los Angeles, committeeman.

Rank May Co-star Crosby and Field

LONDON, Jan. 2.—American interests are understood to be endeavoring to influence J. Arthur Rank to jointly star Bing Crosby and British comedian Sid Field in a big musical here. Crosby is described as being keen on the idea. However, nothing in this connection could be effected until after Field's current show, "Piccadilly Hayride," in the Westend, which is not likely to close before mid-summer.

3 Tuberculosis Shorts

Three short subjects for the National Tuberculosis Association have been added to the 1947-48 product line-up by Emerson Yorke Studio of New York, with the first, "A Message from Maynor," featuring Dorothy Maynor and a group of male singers from the Hall Johnson Choir, set for previewing at Memphis on Jan. 27. Filmed at the 20th Fox-Movietone studios, here the picture will be released to Negro theatres throughout the country. "Time Out," the second short, will go before the cameras next Monday at the new RKO-Pathe studios. The third subject, based on a rehabilitation theme, will also be filmed by Yorke in the East.

Second Herald Film

"Sepia Cinderella," second of the all-negro productions scheduled by Herald Pictures, Inc., has gone before the cameras at Filmcraft Studios, here, under the direction of Arthur Leonard.

'IA' Winter Meet in Seattle Starts Jan. 27

The executive board of the IATSE will hold its mid-winter meeting in Seattle for four or five days beginning Jan. 27, Richard F. Walsh, international president, discloses here.

Attending, in addition to Walsh, will be William P. Raoul, secretary-treasurer, and vice-presidents Harland Holmden, William P. Covert, Floyd M. Billingsley, James J. Brennan, Roger M. Kennedy, Felix D. Snow, Carl G. Cooper, W. C. Barrett and Louise Wright.

NAB Sets 2 District Sessions for Spring

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Scheduling a meeting of members of the National Association of Broadcasters in the second district for May 5-6 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, C. E. Arney, Jr., secretary-treasurer of the NAB, has announced that additional regional meetings are being planned. An area meeting, covering the fourth and seventh districts, which include West Virginia, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Ohio, has been set for April 28-29 in Roanoke.

Michael R. Hanna of WHCU, NAB director for the second district which covers New York and New Jersey, is in charge of arrangements for the New York session.

Polish Agreement Now in Effect

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The new industry trade agreement with Film Polski in Poland went into effect yesterday, the pact permitting the importation of 65 feature film programs into Poland each year.

Negotiated by the U. S. State Department and the Motion Picture Export Association; the agreement is to last until Jan. 1, 1948. Film Polski is the government film monopoly in that country.

Four from M-G-M Release This Month

M-G-M will release four features nationally in January. The first is "Till the Clouds Roll By,'" Technicolor musical; second, "Gallant Bess," is in Cinecolor and stars "Bess;" the third, "The Mighty McGurk," and the fourth, "The Lady in the Lake."

10 New RAM Members

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2. — Ten new members have been admitted to the Radio Manufacturers Association by the board of directors. The resignations of six companies, largely due to discontinuing radio manufacturing, maintains the RMA membership at a total of 335 companies.

New Utah 'U' Exchange

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 2.—A new exchange building is planned for this city by Universal Pictures, with construction due to get under way as soon as materials are available, C. R. Wade, Universal branch manager reveals.

Albany Variety Club Plans Five Events

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 2. — Five events have been arranged by the local Variety Club for January. The first will be a testimonial dinner for Alex Sayles, manager of Fabian's Palace, at Town House, next Monday. Ray Fine, proprietor of the House and a member of Tent 9, will entertain following the dinner. Milton Schosberg, Grand Theatre manager, heads the ticket committee.

On Jan. 13, James P. Faughnan, contact manager for Warner theatres in the Albany and Buffalo zones, will be honored as "King for a Day." On Jan. 20, a dinner for James (Rip) Collins, former Albany Eastern league club manager, recently appointed skipper of the San Diego Pacific Coast loop team, will be tendered at the De Witt Clinton Hotel. Tommy Richardson, president of the Eastern league, will act as toastmaster at the party for Collins, who belongs to the Variety Club.

On January 27, a dinner will be held at Jack's Restaurant for barkers and their wives, preceding the Strauss Festival at the Palace Theatre that night. The musical will be staged for the "Heart Fund" of the Club, to promote the Variety-Albany Boys' Club summer camp in the Helderbergs.

RMA Reports 1,844 Nov. Video Sets

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Production of 1,844 television receivers by Radio Manufacturers Association member-manufacturers were reported for November, the association announces. This was the largest number of television sets produced in any month since "VJ-Day."

Radio set production maintained about the same weekly rate that prevailed during the fall, but the total November output fell below that of October, due largely to the fact that there were fewer working days in November. RMA member-companies reported producing 1,496,482 radio and television sets in November, compared with 1,670,444 in October.

Annual W B Meeting Is Set for Feb. 15

Annual meeting of Warner Brothers stockholders will be held Tuesday, Feb. 18, in Wilmington.

Members of the board of directors whose terms expire in 1947 are: Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles B. Guggenheimer, Samuel Schneider and Morris Wolf.

WGN's New Call Letters

CHICAGO, Jan. 2. — Call letters of WGN's new television station will be WGNA, it was announced yesterday by Frank P. Schreiber, general manager. Authorization of the letters by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington was accompanied by the designation of WGNM as call letters for the WGN mobile unit.

Atlanta Station Approved

ATLANTA, Jan. 2. — The Federal Communications Commission has authorized the operation of a new radio station by the Atlanta Constitution Publishing Co., here.

Coast Will Start 'Dimes' Drive Jan. 15

The opening "kick-off" for the 1947 March of Dimes campaign will be staged at a luncheon at the Hollywood Athletic Club, Wednesday, Jan. 15, where Earl Warren, governor of California, will be guest of honor. Stars will attend, along with executive leaders in motion pictures, radio, [illegible], and officials of the Los Angeles [illegible]pter of the National Foundation, union officials and industrialists.

Luncheon will precede a rally to be held at the Hollywood Bowl that afternoon, attended by women's organizations in Los Angeles, plus school children in the area.

Four More Receive Charters in N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 2. — Stratford Motion Pictures, Inc., has been incorporated to conduct business in New York; incorporators are: John G. Stratford, George Eichardt and Marion Kahn. Samuel D. Bierman was incorporating attorney.

Federal Studios, Inc., has been incorporated to carry on a motion pictures business in New York; incorporators are: Nicholas Pecora, Harry John Gluskin and Bernard R. Gogel, all of New York. Gluskin was incorporating attorney.

National Video Guild, Inc., has been incorporated under the membership section of the incorporations statute. Frederick E. Winkler, Broadway, New York, was incorporating attorney.

Cinerama Corp. has been incorporated to conduct a motion picture business in New York. Incorporators are: George F. Trowbridge, Mortimer M. Caplin and Robert Kramer. Paul Weiss, Wharton and Garrison, were incorporating attorneys.

Five Westinghouse Stations Raise Rates

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Night base rates of five Westinghouse radio stations will be increased approximately 11 per cent, it was announced by sales manager B. A. MacDonald. Other rates will be increased in all six Westinghouse stations, he said. Increases became effective yesterday. Current advertisers will be protected at present rates through December 31, 1947.

Night base rates will be increased at station KDKA, Pittsburgh; WBZ-WBZA, Boston-Springfield; KYW, Philadelphia; and WOWO, Fort Wayne. There will be no change in night base rates at station KEX, Portland, Ore.

Dahlworth Incorporates

ALBANY, N. Y.—Jan. 2. — Dahlworth Film Services, Inc., has been incorporated to conduct a business in motion pictures. Incorporators are: Irving Barry, Arnold Silberstein and Stella Steinberg, New York. Barry and Katzman were incorporating attorneys.

Gildred Mexico Circuit

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2. — A theatre circuit is being organized here by Theodore Gildred, American operator of a large local studio, and Jesus Grovas, producer-president of Producciones Grovas.

Argentine Film Men Seeking Quota Rise

Argentine producers are shielding their cries for increased quota restrictions under the banner of nationalism, Nat Liebeskind, owner and operator of the 600-seat Electra Theatre in Buenos Aires, declared here. Liebeskind, the only American exhibitor in Argentina, is here on a three-month visit.

With the Argentina import law now reserving 40 per cent of playing time for domestic films, native producers have begun to press for an increase to 50 per cent, Liebeskind continued, adding that he believed the increase stands a "good chance" of adoption because of the local political situation. He added that Argentinian film men are beginning a campaign to impose import limitations on foreign films, a limitation which does not now exist.

The practices of the Peron government, however, have in no way interfered with his policies, he added.

Associated with several companies in the foreign distribution departments in the course of his more than 30 years in the industry, Liebeskind became an exhibitor in 1942. Previously here just one year ago, he recalled that he became involved in a controversy when he expressed criticisms of the practice of dubbing, and now most companies have dropped the practice of supplying Spanish "voices" in the place of English because they realized that it proved unprofitable, he observed.

"The death knell of dubbed pictures sounded recently when two pictures, one dubbed and supported by a heavy exploitation budget and the other with English titles and practically unheralded, tallied up their respective box-office figures," he declared. The dubbed picture, which was offering well-known stars and was shown in a house of larger capacity, was outgrossed by 50 per cent, according to Liebeskind.

Argentina has a government-appointed reviewer inspect all product, principally for their political content, he added. "It is interesting to note," he asserted, "that the American Production Code Administration does such an effective job that probably 99½ per cent of U. S. product is cleared."

Banks Reduce Loans For Mexican Films

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—Banks specializing in financing the film industry have sharply reduced that accommodation, it is shown by their latest balance sheets.

The industry's own bank, the Banco Cinematografico, reported loans, credits and discounts of $3,452,358, a decrease of almost $800,000 in a month, and the Banco de la Industria Filmica, the manager of which is Raul de Anda, prominent producer, announced accommodations of only $60,123.

New Fire Retardant

A new type of fire retardant claimed to be the first to offer permanent protection for theatre draperies, curtains, and upholstered furniture, has been announced by National Theatre Supply. The new product, known as "Chex-Flame," is exclusively distributed by National and is manufactured by Royal Chemical of New York.

Canada Films to Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—Clasa Films Mundiales, producer-distributor, will start the distribution of Canadian pictures in Mexico about Jan. 15. This company will begin 1947 with the production of five pictures.

Japanese Warned of Theatre Crowding

Ten members of the Japanese cabinet and some 40 Jap legislators have been warned by Motion Picture Export Association managing director Charles Mayer that the chronic overcrowding of Tokyo theatres not only constitutes a menace to public health and a serious fire hazard, but is resulting in the loss of patronage from the better class of fans. The Jap lawmakers, who took time out from Diet sessions to attend a preview of "The Southerner" in MPEA's Tokyo office, heard Mayer put in a strong plea for immediate remedial action by accelerating the repair of old houses and construction of new ones.

During the war only 80 of Tokyo's 280 houses escaped destruction from fire and bombs. Of the 60 new or rebuilt houses that have been added to this number during the two post-war years, many are of flimsy and shack-like construction.

ABPC Circuit Deal to Show More UK Films

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Implementing its agreement with the British Board of Trade to exhibit six British pictures annually in addition to its statutory quota total, Associated British Corp. has assumed control of Anglo-American Film Co., distribution firm, of which Louis H. Jackson is chairman and governing director.

The deal also guarantees circuit distribution for Lady Yule's British National Films, with which Jackson will remain as executive producer.

The new set-up is due for reconsideration when the government's intentions with regard to possible quota revision become known.

Anglo-American Pact On German Science

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—An Anglo-American agreement for the exchange of German technical information, including that on film equipment, acquired by the two nations since "VE-Day" has been announced jointly by W. A. Harriman, Secretary of Commerce, and Sir Stafford Cripps, president of Great Britain's Board of Trade. Microfilm copies have been made of the hundreds of thousands of German scientific and technical documents uncovered by British and American investagators in their zones.

New 'Heaven' Record

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—20th-Century-Fox's "Leave Her to Heaven" holds, it is claimed, the greatest gross record for one theatre of any picture exhibited in Mexico, grossing $150,000 during six weeks at the Cine Alameda, first run theatre here. The picture showed during its first week at $1, a new high for Mexico; at 85 cents for the next two weeks, and at 65 cents the other three. Record has only been approached by the Mexican picture, "The Devouress", which had a box office of $96,500 in six weeks at one theatre.

Film Subtitling Is Preferred by Chile

By MARIO ROMERO

SANTIAGO, Dec. 26 (By Airmail).—The practice of dubbing Spanish voices into American and English pictures has not been well received by the Chilean public. Many complaints were voiced by theatre-goers, who claimed that the substitution of voices resulted in weakened and incorrect presentations.

Recently Paramount put the matter to a test. Two versions of "And Now Tomorrow" were exhibited concurrently in the Teatro Real and the Teatro Santiago, one dubbed, the other with Spanish subtitles. The dubbed version was placed in the Santiago, which usually runs Spanish-speaking pictures. Ballot boxes were installed in the lobbies of both theatres and votes recorded for one week. Result: Teatro Real, showing the version with subtitles, polled 300 for dubbing and 3,257 against. Teatro Santiago, showing the dubbed version, polled 1,178 for dubbed and 744 against. Totals were 4,271 against dubbing, with 1,478 in favor.

Even more significant were box-office returns which ran higher at the Real, where the English version was shown and where the picture remained an extra week after the dubbed version had moved out of the Santiago. The only American company still bringing dubbed films into Chile is M-G-M.

The Chilean film industry spent 16,000,000 pesos chilenos (about $533,333) on the production of 10 full-length pictures during 1946. Four were produced by Chile Films; six by independent producers. The independents spent about 1,000,000 a picture, while the average cost of the Chile Films was 2,500,000 pesos.

Record Production In '47 for Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2. — Producers here seemingly have high hopes for 1947 as they estimate 96 productions in the New Year, the highest number for any year of the 16 that the Mexican industry has really existed with the making here in 1931 of the first talking picture. The producers' estimate indicates that the depression which the industry here has suffered for some months is passing and will make a strong comeback. The number of pictures estimated was arrived at by questioning of its members by the Mexican Motion Picture Producers Association.

Gershman in U. S. Deal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2. — Edward Gershman, vice-president and business manager of United Productions of America, has returned here after a six-week trip to the East, during which time he visited clients in Chicago, Detroit, Washington and New York. While in the East, Gershman signed for two pictures for the State Department and the first of a new series for the Navy.

Argentine for Clasa

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2. — Preparations are being completed by Clasa Films Mundiales for the production of a Mexican picture in the Argentine, which is expected to start early in February.

440 Theatres Now in French Reich Zone

By H. ZU LOEWENSTEIN

BERLIN, Dec. 26 (By Airmail).—Taking its cue from the Americans, British and Russians, the French motion picture industry also is effectively filling the film vacuum created by the German defeat. Reports from the French zone say that 440 theatres are operating there with more than 1,000,000 persons attending the shows each week. Many French films are exhibited, but, up to a short time ago, many had to be shown with subtitles. To remedy this condition, French authorities, with no German studios located in their zone, have made deals with the Russians and Americans for their pictures to be dubbed in Berlin and Munich.

French officials now have decided to acquire their own studios, which will be located at Theningen and at Remagen. The dubbing studio at Theningen is small, but completely equipped.

In Berlin, Gen. Robert A. McClure has just signed the first license for 13 German and one Swiss motion picture producer in the U. S. Zone and the American sector of Berlin.

The German film star, Gustav Froehlich, is at present in Berlin, playing the lead in the musical comedy, "Sag die Wahrheit" ("Tell the Truth"). This picture, soon to be completed, is a production of "Studio 45," located in the former UFA studios at Tempelhof in the American sector of the Reich capital.

Reports on Need of Equipment Abroad

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—With all but two of an estimated 71 theatres in Lebanon and Syria in need of new equipment, and with only about 12 of 73 houses in Oran operating with still useable projection and sound equipment, Syria, Malta, Oran, Lebanon and Algeria sorely require replacements and rehabilitation for their exhibition outlets, according to a U. S. Commerce department report issued here today. Nathan Golden, motion picture chief for the department, conducted the survey, which pointed out that payment for all exports of this type will have to be made on a deferred basis.

Malta is in the worst way for new equipment due to the extreme bombing which the British Mediterranean base received during the war, the report stated.

New Mexican Circuit

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2. — Emilio Azcarraga, operator of the local first-run, Cines Alameda, Bucareli and Olimpia theatres, and radio stations XEW and XEQ here, and Neguib Simon, multi-millionaire industrialist and entertainment promoter, are establishing a theatre circuit here, which is expected to start before the end of winter.

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Mason Number One In British Poll

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 3.—James Mason, who was chosen in the *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll of British exhibitors as the top money-making British film star of 1944 and 1945, held on to that championship for 1946 and added to it the distinction of being voted the leader among stars of all nations in the same balloting. A year ago Mason was tied with Spencer Tracy for seventh place in the international poll.

Second place among the British stars of 1946 goes to Margaret Lockwood, who was third the year before. She is followed by Stewart Granger, Michael Redgrave, Anna Neagle, Phyllis Calvert, Rex Harrison, John Mills, Robert Donat and Eric Portman, in the order named.

Runner-up to Mason on the international list is Bing Crosby, with Miss Lockwood in third position, followed in order by Greer Garson, Bette Davis, Granger, Ingrid Bergman, Alan Ladd, Bob Hope and Van Johnson.

Among Western stars, Roy Rogers was the 1946 top choice of exhibitors in Britain, where his leadership parallels that voted him by U. S. showmen. Gary Cooper emerges in second position here, followed in order by Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea, John Wayne, Johny Mack Brown, Gene Autry, Bill Boyd, Wallace Beery and Errol Flynn.

Kelly, Others Leave Today for England

Arthur Kelly, president of General Motion Picture Corp., and Sir Alexander Korda, British producer, are among the more than 2,000 passengers scheduled to leave for England today aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* when it sails from New York. Others from the motion picture world who have booked passage are: Michael Powell, Paul Soskin and John Corfield, British producers associated with the J. Arthur Rank Organization; Paul Sheriff, Rank art director; Lawrence Evans, London representative of Music Corp. of America, and Madeleine Carroll, Marlene Dietrich, Margot Grahame and Rod Cameron, screen stars.

Jolley in E-L Post; Care Forms Company

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 2.—Art Jolley will be branch manager of a new distribution office to be established here by Eagle-Lion Films. This is the second new film outlet announced in recent weeks.

Harry Care, who operated an independent film organization here until seven years ago when he went to Los Angeles, has returned to set up an independent distributing company.

Film Flares, None Hurt

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2. — Film caught fire in the projection booth of the Sedgwick Theatre on Germantown Ave., but was extinguished by operator Howard Ingram before firemen arrived. Manager Lee Balsby ushered out 500 children, many of whom thought the show had ended. The next performance was able to be shown as usual.

Review

"Green for Danger"

(Launder-Gilliat-General Film Distributors—British)

London

PRACTITIONERS normally in the pseudo-philosophic fields of film making, Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat—widely regarded as the British counterpart of the Hecht-MacArthur team—herein deliberately essay to concoct an honest-to-goodness mystery. Right well do they succeed, thanks to a well-devised script, immaculate acting, suspenseful direction. But thanks mainly to the cheerful exuberance with which the whole thing unfolds itself.

To Britons with recollections of those still recent, terrifying doodle-bugs, the emergency casualty hospitals, all the rest of the paraphernalia of the bombings, the picture might well have developed disturbingly. That it doesn't is due to the shrewd tincture of laughs and quiet smiles which Launder and Gilliat injected into the piece.

Locale of the picture is the operating theatre of a wartime hospital, in which mysterious killings occur. The surgeon concerned, the anaesthetist, the nursing sisters, all successively come under suspicion as the slayer. There's an undertone of frayed nerves until the aforesaid slayer is unmasked in as pretty a piece of nerve-tingling sleuthery as we have lately seen. It was a hazardous project, the making of such a thing; for, one actor putting one foot wrong would have made a shambles of the whole proceeding. But the actors don't, for the very good reason that the surgeon is played by Leo Genn and the anaesthetist by Trevor Howard. Selective American audiences saw Leo Genn in "Henry V" and Howard as the doctor in "Brief Encounter." They know the impeccable quality of both men's work.

Then there's Alistair Sim, the Scotland Yard sleuth who neatly calls the turn on the slayer. The chiefs of the real Scotland Yard would cock a surprised eye at Sim's methods in the picture. Nevertheless, the performance is sheer joy. So much so that British producers will be falling over themselves to prevail upon Sim to undertake a series of Inspector Cockrill parts. Which, in the opinion of this reviewer, would be a pity, seeing that Sim is far too good an actor to be typed.

A comfortable, diverting piece.

Running time, 91 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

PETER BURNUP

Perkins Gets New Paramount Post

Robert V. Perkins, who had been Paramount International's branch manager for the Philippines, has been named district manager for the territory embracing the Philippines, China and Japan, by George Waltner, president of International.

Perkins succeeds F. C. Henry, who was promoted last week to division manager for the territory that includes Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, the Straits Settlements, the East Indies, Burma and India.

Richmond Tax Is Now in Effect

RICHMOND, Jan. 2.—At a stormy session of the board of aldermen, mayor Edward's tax proposal was voted into law. One part of the new tax program includes a five per cent on all admissions to places of amusement. It was expected that the mayor will sign the papers today so that the tax will go into effect immediately.

The city common council last week passed the bill despite much opposition and over strong protests by every amusement operator in the city.

Critics' Quotes . . .

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" (RKO Radio-Liberty)

Capra spared no expense in his painstaking production, a high spot of the year.—*Lee Mortimer, New York Daily Mirror.*

. . . A modern "Christmas Carol," and while some good, sound dramatic material and several tender passages have been woven into the picture, it is no improvement on the Dickens story. . . . Would have been greatly improved by some judicious editing. It runs too long for its own good.—*Kate Cameron, New York Daily News.*

There are sequences in "It's a Wonderful Life" which are more ridiculous than fantastic, but the bulk of the production has guts and meaning.—*Howard Barnes, New York Herald-Tribune.*

. . . Contains some interesting ideas, offers several effective performances and, when it isn't trying too hard to make its point, provides some neat bits of comedy, romance and sentiment.—*Rose Pelswick, New York Journal and American.*

. . . A lusty serving of good old hoke, expertly concocted to woo and win mass appeal.—*Cecelia Ager, PM, New York.*

The framework of serious ideas in "It's a Wonderful Life" mark it as a picture built along noble lines. . . . It is too bad, though, that (its) lesson could not have been fleshed in more convincing characters.—*Archer Winsten, New York Post.*

. . . A warm and merry comedy . . . the perfect Christmas entertainment . . . splendid cast.—*Eileen Creelman, New York Sun.*

. . . Quaint and engaging modern parable on virtue being its own reward. . . . (James) Stewart does a warmly appealing job.—*Bosley Crowther, New York Times.*

Like many another Capra masterpiece, this is a humorous fantasy. Once more this director will demonstrate the fallacy of the old Hollywood maxim that fantasy is poison at the box-office.—*Alton Cook, New York World Telegram.*

Austrian Reports On Mexican Video

"Television in Mexico has caught the people's fancy as has no other 20th century innovation," says Ralph B. Austrian, president of RKO Television Corp., who has returned from a month's visit to Mexico City. "Last October a special demonstration which picked up Mexican bull fighting from the Plaza del Toros and displayed them on a battery of television receivers several miles away left a huge section of the population gasping.

"During the last month while I was in Mexico City," said Austrian, "I have had dozens of visits and conferences with many interests who are determined to be first with television in Mexico. Plans are underway for the establishment of a transmitter in Mexico City, also transmitters in four other cities. Most of the negotiations are still in the confidential stage but news of the culmination of plans is expected momentarily. Mexico will serve as the link between the United States and the South American countries in the establishment of a Western Hemisphere network," he added.

3 Steffes Theatres Sold for $290,000

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—Three Minneapolis loop theatres were sold today by the estate of the late W. A. (Al) Steffes for a reported price of $290,000. Steffes, veteran Northwest theatre operator, died on June 19.

The Alvin, which has been operating as a burlesque house, and the World, a 350-seater, were purchased by George Granstrom and associates. Granstrom is president of the Highland Theatre Corp. of St. Paul, which operates several independents in that city. The Bijou Theatre, one of the city's oldest houses, was bought by Harry Dryer, its present manager, who was a partner of Steffes for many years.

Disney and Goldwyn Engage Greenberg

Berry Greenberg has been engaged jointly by Walt Disney and Samuel Goldwyn Productions as special sales representative for the Far East. It is contemplated that his headquarters will be in Singapore. He will work in cooperation wtih Leon Britton, Far East division manager, in the sales and distribution of Disney and Goldwyn product in that division of RKO's foreign department which is headed by Phil Reisman.

Greenberg has been connected with Loew's, for the past 15 years, 10 of which were spent in the Far East.

Leggewie Promoted By 20th's Silverstone

Murray Silverstone, president of 20th-International and Inter-America corporations, has named Edward Leggewie manager of the foreign versions department, succeeding Boris Vermont, who will supervise the production of a special series of shorts for Movietone.

Leggewie, who has been assisting Vermont for the last six months, has had many years of experience in this type of work, both in America and Europe.

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Myers Finds Decree 'Weak' On Divestiture

Allied States Counsel Holds Appeal Needed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—In an analysis of the final decree handed down in the Government's industry anti-trust suit, Abram F. Myers, Allied State counsel, stated that the judgment is "woefully weak on divestiture and that the court placed a seal of approval on producer-distributor ownership and operation of theatres." He said an appeal of the case is imperative.

Myers blasted the court action, which fails to permit a disappointed bidder to examine the bid on which the award was made in competitive bidding.

"Under the decree, favoritism in the granting of runs may be practiced without its coming to the attention of the injured party. It is not to be expected that the Department of Justice will audit, analyze and compare the bids on every transaction," Myers commented.

In a bulletin to members of Allied, Myers asserted that the association

(*Continued on page 6*)

Industry to 'Adopt' Greek War Orphans

Individuals, organizations, theatres and companies throughout the industry will be invited to share in the "adoption" for one year of 15,000 Greek children orphaned by the war, a project which will be undertaken to honor Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century - Fox, it was announced by S. H. Fabian, president of Fabian Theatres, at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel here on Friday attended by publishers and editors of the industry's press.

Spyros P. Skouras

Fabian, Jack Cohn, vice-president of Columbia, and Ned E. Depinet, ex-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Bidding Means Chaos: Fabian

In the most vehement denunciation of the New York decree's competitive bidding provision to date, Si Fabian, president of the American Theatres Association, on Friday indicted that method as entailing "viciousness and chaos."

In a statement confirming that ATA will endeavor to appeal from that portion of the New York Federal Court decision upon the approval of its board of directors, Fabian said: "This decree directs competitive bidding with all of the viciousness and chaos we know it to entail. The sound theatre operator stands today facing an era that will make the earlier price wars pall by comparison. He faces competition from those with bigger bankrolls who have no immediate concern with profit or loss.

"He faces competition from ama-

(*Continued on page 6*)

13 Distributors Are Named in Trust Suit

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—Louis B. Philon, a World War II veteran, has filed an anti-trust suit in the U. S. District Court here on behalf of his recently-opened Liberty Theatre in Michigan City, Ind., asking for equitable relief and naming as defendants the Manta-Rose Circuit, 13 distributors, including some independent companies, and

(*Continued on page 7*)

NYC Gives Veterans License Priorities

War veterans will be given special consideration by the New York City license department in the granting here of theatre and other licenses during 1947, city license commissioner Benjamin Fielding discloses.

Under this policy, Fielding added, veterans with service-connected disabilities will receive top priority, with processing of veterans' applications generally to be faster than those of ordinary applicants.

Chartering of New Foundation Delayed

Chartering of the Motion Picture Foundation, in the District of Columbia, has been delayed until early in this new year, it is indicated here by spokesmen for the committee which has been working on that project. Technical details are understood to have been responsible for the postponement.

Following the original planning of the foundation in New Orleans, early last month, its leaders hoped the corporate structure might be completed within the current calendar year so that gifts to the charity fund might be deducted from 1946 taxes by the companies making them.

WB Raises Investments Abroad to $8,852,847

Largely as a result of the acquisition of another 12½ per cent interest in Associated British Pictures, the foreign investments of Warner Brothers increased in the past year from $4,284,870 to $8,852,847, the company reports.

The Warner investment in ABC now amounts to $8,164,826, compared with $3,636,701 in the previous year, when these holdings represented only 25 per cent of ABC's ordinary shares.

Total foreign assets of Warner Brothers increased to $14,337,140, compared with liabilities of $6,997,640, making net assets of $7,339,500.

Assets in foreign countries aside from Great Britain amount to $1,221,286.

Dinner for Golden Wedding of Zukors

Adolph Zukor, chairman of Paramount's board of directors, and Mrs. Zukor will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at the Savoy-Plaza here, Friday.

The event will be confined largely to the couple's family and close personal friends. Their daughter, Mrs. Mildred Z. Loew of New York, will be present, and their son, Eugene, was scheduled to leave Hollywood over the weekend with his wife.

Appeal of NY Suit Based on Inconsistency

Attorneys to Hold First Decree Meeting Today

As distributor counsel at the weekend completed their preliminary studies of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit prior to assembling today in the first of a series of meetings to determine their future course of action, spokesmen for the attorneys and other industry observers regarded an appeal by the defendants to the Supreme Court as probable, based at least in part on "contradictions and impracticalities" held to be contained in the decree.

Among the chief inconsistencies one attorney declared, is that the decree, in effect, permits the selling of a season's product in advance and then declares that dates of availability must be specified when the pictures are offered for sale. Section Seven, he pointed out, says: "To the extent that any of the features have not been trade shown prior to the granting of the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Arbitration Revival Believed Unlikely

Distribution executives and their legal advisers here yesterday saw little likelihood that the industry arbitration system set up under the consent decree will be revived voluntarily now that the system has been terminated by the final decree in the New York equity case.

Despite the fact that U. S. District Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright, who heard the case and wrote the decree, have strongly recommended that the system be perpetuated "in order to avoid cumbersome and dilatory court litigation," first distributor reaction is that it would be rather unworkable without the backing of the court and the Government, which it has had during the past six years.

"An exhibitor now will be able to file a suit much more easily than he

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

WOLFE COHEN, vice-president of Warner International, is expected here today after a visit to Caribbean and Central American territories.

•

RUDOLPH WEISS, head of Warner Theatres real estate department, and W. STEWART McDONALD, comptroller of WB Theatres, will be in Cleveland today and tomorrow.

•

IRVING MAAS, vice-president and general manager of the Motion Picture Export Association, is now expected back in New York from Europe Jan. 12.

•

JACK F. DAILEY, administrative assistant of Radio City Music Hall, is scheduled to leave here today by plane for Hollywood.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern and Southern division sales manager, will return to New York from the Coast today with his wife, ARLEEN WHELAN.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warners' Eastern division sales manager, left here over the weekend to visit the Central district.

•

EDWARD C. RAFTERY, president of United Artists, is expected back at the home office today from Chicago.

•

LOU SMITH, director of publicity and advertising for Liberty Films, is in New York from the Coast.

•

FRED MOHRHARDT, Paramount treasurer, is due back at his desk today from a Florida vacation.

•

DUDLEY NICHOLS, RKO Radio producer-director, is due in New York today from Hollywood.

•

GEORGE S. SHARF of the M-G-M legal department left here over the weekend for Louisville.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation manager, has left here for Dallas.

•

GABRIEL PASCAL, British producer, arrived here last week by plane from Rome.

•

JESSE L. LASKY is scheduled to arrive here from the Coast tomorrow.

Will Address Ampa

Douglas Leigh, builder of many of the electric theatre advertising signs along Broadway, will address the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers on "Selling With Spectaculars," at a luncheon in the Town Hall Club here on Jan. 9. A number of prominent industry officials will occupy the dais.

Warners Buy Theatre

BOGOTA, Colombia, Jan. 5.—The San Jorge Theatre has been taken over by Warner Brothers following improvements.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

AS this was being written, it was not easy to find anyone who would say without qualification that he liked the New York Federal court's final decree in the government anti-trust suit against the industry any better than the same court's opinion of last June 11. And there weren't many who liked the latter. Appeals are to be expected.

Preliminary study indicates that the lengthy court hearings and exhaustive and numerous briefs which became part of the record of the eight and one-half-year old case last October and November had but little influence on the final decree. The court did take cognizance of the scope and intensity of the exhibitor opposition to its so-called "auction" selling plan and of the government's adamant stand against continuance of the industry arbitration system.

In the case of the former, the court, by memorandum accompanying its decree, expressed the belief that it had changed its competitive bidding proposals so that such bidding "will only be necessary within a competitive area and, in such an area, where it is desired by the exhibitors." However, the effect of the decree provision on the subject would appear to be quite different from that intended by the court as revealed in the court's language quoted above. For example, under the decree any one exhibitor in a competitive area may make competitive bidding mandatory upon all other exhibitors in that area, even though the latter may be opposed to that method of selling, by initiating a bid when a picture is offered.

Accordingly, the court has not restricted competitive bidding to areas "where it is desired by the exhibitors." They can be forced to take it by a single recalcitrant in any competitive area.

•

As for arbitration, the court ordered its termination with obvious reluctance. It "strongly recommended" that some such system be continued and declared that "this (provision) shall in no way preclude the parties or any other persons from setting up a reasonable system of arbitration either through the use of the present boards or any others as among themselves."

The Justice Department has suggested at various times that the entire cost of arbitration be borne by the defendants, including costs of filing complaints; that restrictions and limitations be placed upon the defendants' legal representation, and that the rules of arbitration be greatly broadened, as a condition to the government's support of the arbitration system. The proposals, heretofore, have not been welcomed by company defendants, nor is there very much reason to believe that they would be any more acceptable now.

However, with the 1940 consent decree now voided by the Federal court, the government's approval of a voluntary system of industry arbitration no longer is required. Whether or not a continuation of the present system or a practicable new system, so vigorously recommended by the court, can or will be devised, is highly uncertain at this time. If one is not, the complete enforcement, interpretation and administration of the final decree, and the determination of all disputes arising hereunder, will be in the cumbersome, costly and dilatory processes of the Federal courts.

•

Meanwhile, no major phases of the New York court's decree are likely to become effective for many months to come. The court set the effective date for March 1 on all provisions except competitive bidding, which will be effective July 1, and divestiture of theatres owned more than five per cent and 95 per cent or less, which latter order defendants were given two years to comply with.

The government itself will appeal on the divestiture order, seeking complete divorcement of affiliated theatres. One or more defendants may appeal on the same order, contending that it is too harsh or that insufficient time for divestiture is permitted. Appeals are more than likely on the competitive bidding provisions, since several companies are of the firm belief that while the court has the power to enjoin them from a selling method which it has found to be illegal, it cannot go beyond that and specify any one selling method as the only legal method. Appeals also are considered likely on the court's refusal to permit road showing of specials.

It could be many, many months before the high court disposes of all the issues which may be raised on appeal.

Newsreel Parade

NEW YEAR celebrations in New York and Philadelphia are featured in current newsreels. Other subjects highlighted include the new GOP Congress, President Truman's proclamation ending war hostilities, sundry items from abroad, sports, the Brooklyn jail break and Japan's earthquake. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 37—President Truman proclaims end of war hostilities. Politics: the new Congress opens. Jail break in Brooklyn. Nature on the rampage: Minneapolis grain elevator fire, American plane goes down in Iceland, Japanese earthquake, Canada gets winter floods, American ship runs aground. Huge New York throngs hail the new year.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 235—GOP Congress in spotlight. President Truman proclaims end of war hostilities. Earthquake in Japan. All saved in shipwreck. Church ceremony in Africa. German war plant blasted. Mummers parade in Philadelphia. Florida sailboat regatta. 1947 bathing suit preview.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 38—Minneapolis grain elevator destroyed by fire. Sports: Man-o'-War turns 30, Miami Orange Bowl regatta. U. S. airliner crashes in Ireland. Jap earthquake. 80th Congress: Republicans take over.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 40—GOP majority sets up Senate. Atom control goes to civilians. Fibre glass auto. Strasbourg celebrates freedom. French resume production of big films. Tidal wave sweeps Japan.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 1—Earthquake rips Japan. Truman ends hostilities. Ice-jams flood Canada. New Congressional personalities. Mummers usher in New Year. Horse show. Wrestling in France.

SMPE Will Discuss 'Magnetic Sound'

Magnetic sound for motion pictures, a subject at the last semi-annual convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, held in Hollywood, will be the topic of the next meeting of the Society's Atlantic Coast section on Jan. 16 in the Hotel Pennsylvania, it is announced by James Frank, Jr., new chairman of the section.

A paper and demonstration of the new development will be presented by Marvin Camras of the Armour Research Foundation. The meeting will be the first session presided over by Frank following his election as successor to Frank E. Cahill, Jr. in the Atlantic Coast chairmanship.

Yates States Autry Bound by Contract

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—Unless and until the California State Supreme Court decides otherwise, Gene Autry will be required to make pictures exclusively for Republic, President Herbert J. Yates said. According to Autry's contract, the Western star must make eight before Sept. 30, 1947.

Of these, two have been completed, one starts this week and one is being prepared. These four, said Yates, would not be affected by the outcome of pending litigation. Columbia said last Thursday that it had a contract with Autry, effective April 1.

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Universal Group to Studio on Thursday

New York executives of Universal will leave here Thursday for the Coast to join Nate J. Blumberg, president; J. Cheever Cowdin, board chairman, and Leo Spitz and William Goetz, among others, in the company's regular January studio conferences on production.

The group will remain on the Coast to attend the marriage of Blumberg's daughter, Doris Jean (Dodo), to Stanley Meyer, son of Fred Meyer, studio labor relations executive for 20th Century-Fox, on Jan. 14.

The group leaving here Thursday will comprise Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel; William A. Scully, vice-president in charge of sales; Matthew Fox, board chairman of the new "U" subsidiary, United World Films; Joseph H. Seidelman, president of Universal International, and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director. John J. O'Connor, vice-president and executive assistant to Blumberg has dropped plans to make the trip because of the illness of his wife.

Excepting Spitz and Goetz, the group will return to New York at the end of the month. Blumberg will also return.

Lipton Here Today; Bergman on Coast

David A. Lipton, Universal-International executive coordinator of advertising, with headquarters at the U-I Coast studios, will arrive in New York today to coordinate activities of the New York staff while Maurice A. Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising-publicity director is in California for studio conferences.

Lipton will remain in New York for several weeks. Bergman will be here later this week.

Kanins to Release Through Universal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—William Goetz, Universal-International production executive, has signed the newly-formed Kanin Productions to a two-picture releasing deal. Kanin Productions, comprising Garson Kanin as president and Michael Kanin, vice-president in charge of production, will act as independent producers, releasing through Universal.

The first to get under way for Kanin will be "The Art of Murder," an original by Garson Kanin and his wife, Ruth Gordon. Michael Kanin will produce. The second picture, yet to be selected, will be directed by Garson Kanin.

The formation of Kanin Productions is Garson Kanin's first move back to the industry since his release from the Army last year. He was formerly a producer-director with RKO Radio. His last picture before joining the service was Ginger Roger's "Tom, Dick and Harry." He is currently in New York, where his stage success, "Born Yesterday," is still high on the list of hits.

Michael Kanin, brother of Garson, and formerly a contract writer with M-G-M, is expected to move to the Universal-International lot within a week.

British Film to Open

Opening next Friday at the Rialto Theatre, here, will be the English film, "Murder in Reverse," produced and released by Four Continents Films and directed by Montgomery Tully.

Hal Roach Abandons Hollywood Premieres

Producer Hal Roach, who releases through United Artists, plans to obtain audience reactions to his pictures, for which he has purchased a new Lockheed Lodestar passenger plane to fly about the country to attend previews of his films in an effort to determine just how his product is received by audiences in cities and towns, both large and small.

The producer believes that the reactions of the customary Hollywood preview audiences do not provide a true cross-section of the nation's theatre-going crowds, nor permit the producer to obtain an accurate evaluation of the film's potential drawing power. Roach plans to assemble his top studio executives and fly his pictures to selected spots across the country.

15 Permits Granted For Construction

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Indicating the gradual elimination of commercial building controls, 15 theatre construction permits were authorized last week by the Office of Temporary Controls.

Applications granted were: Theatre Enterprise, Inc., Monahans, Tex., to rebuild fire loss, $60,000; A. P. Lassiter, Conway, N. C., theatre repairs of $12,000; Earle D. Chessman of Jacksonville, Fla., to rebuild fire loss, $16,500; Arthur Weaver of Paulding, Ohio, to cover loss by fire, $48,000.

Also, the Elmwood Theatre Corp., granted a permit for repairs at Elmwood, Neb., $4,000; William Vaise, Odessa, Wash., theatre repairs; A. R. Belcher, Princeton, W. Va., to construct a drive-in theatre of masonry construction, $2,000; R. L. Gardner, Campti, La., theatre construction, $1,000.

Also, Grady H. Harrison, College Station, Tex., drive-in-theatre, $10,000; G. H. Little, Tuscaloosa, Ala., drive-in theatre, $1,275; M. B. Spencer, Kingston, N. C., theatre, $6,500; A. W. Ashford, Clinton, Miss., theatre, $6,000; Clyde C. McKellny, Temple, Okla., $10,000, and the Tampa Negro Theatre Co., of Tampa, Fla., theatre repairs, $1,267.

Butterfield Circuit to Aid 'Dimes' Drive

All 118 theatres of the Butterfield Circuit will participate in the "March of Dimes" collections again this year, during the week of Jan. 24-30. J. O Brooks is chairman of Butterfield.

Weening to Paramount

Siegfried Weening has joined the Latin American division of Paramount International Films. Weening was most recently manager for Republic in Trinidad, BWI, and has a background of many years in the film business abroad. Pratchett said that Weening will be given his first Paramount assignment in Latin America in February.

'Swell Guy' Railroad Premiere Tonight

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Newspaper, magazine and syndicate representatives have started to arrive here from as far West as Chicago to participate tomorrow night in the inauguration of the first regular nightly on-train motion picture showings by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

This regular service for C. and O. passengers will be inaugurated on *The George Washington*, bound from here to Cincinnati with the world premiere of Universal's "Swell Guy," produced by Mark Hellinger. Ann Blyth, star of the film, has arrived here from California to make the trip with the press representatives as guests of Robert R. Young, chairman of the board of the C. and O.

Acceptances of the C. and O. invitations by press representatives from New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Norfolk, Richmond, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Cleveland and Chicago, have passed the 60 mark. U-I representatives who will make the trip include Al Horwits, Ben Katz, Charles Simonelli, Milton Livingston and Robert Wile.

'Swell Guy' Awards to Variety Club Members

A "Swell Guy" award to the member of each of the 25 tents of the Variety Clubs of America most worthy of receiving it for his work during 1946 will be made by Mark Hellinger, producer of the film "Swell Guy," for Universal release.

The "Swell Guy" of 1946 in each tent will be chosen by a special committee of that tent and will receive a ceramic and mahogany statuette of "The Barker" in appropriate local ceremonies to be arranged by the individual tents.

Farnol to Address N.Y.U. Radio Class

Lynn Farnol, director of advertising-publicity for Samuel Goldwyn Productions, will be the guest speaker at the New York University class on radio publicity and promotion tonight. Farnol will analyze comparative advertising and publicity techniques in the fields of motion pictures and radio. The course is conducted by Richard Pack, director of publicity of station WOR.

Collier's Editorial Lauds 'Best Years'

An editorial salute is given Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" in the current issue of *Collier's*, which refers to it as a motion picture "which you should not miss."

"It is a highly significant and important drama, and an interesting and exciting one into the bargain," says the editorial. "It is a pleasure to give the film this unqualified and unsolicited endorsement."

Eastman Services Held

Funeral services for James P. Eastman, 34, Vanguard Films publicist, who died at his New York apartment last Thursday, were held here last evening at the Coughlin Funeral Parlor, here. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Eastman served as a captain in the U. S. Army overseas during World War II.

Unger Names Silver District Manager

Mark N. Silver, New York branch manager for United Artists, has been promoted to district manager of the Pennsylvania - Washington territory, by J. J. Unger, general sales manager. Silver, whose appointment is effective immediately, will preside over the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington branches, under the supervision of Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern sales manager. He will make his headquarters in Philadelphia.

Mark N. Silver

He started with the company as field representative in 1933, became a salesman in Washington in 1936 and was appointed branch manager in 1943. Last year, Silver was named manager of the New York branch. He is a veteran of the industry, having started in the business 25 years ago as a salesman for Paramount in Albany, later entering the theatres division with Paramount Publix.

The Pennsylvania-Washington district was created by Unger last year following a realignment of the branches so as to create a more comprehensive service to exhibitors. The post of district manager had been vacant until now. Silver's appointment brings to full strength the roster of district managers which comprises Jack Ellis, New York-New Jersey; Clayton Eastman, New England; Moe Dudelson, Central; Rud Lohrenz, midwest; C. W. Allen, Prairie; Fred M. Jack, Southern; W. E. Callaway, West Coast, and Charles S. Chaplin, Canadian.

Korda Sails Without Distribution Tie-up

Sir Alexander Korda, British producer who left New York Friday on the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth* on his return to England, is going back without any distribution deal after a series of conferences in this country with several companies, according to Murray Helprin, Korda-London Films representative here.

Prominent among the outlets mentioned in the negotiations was the Selznick Releasing Organization.

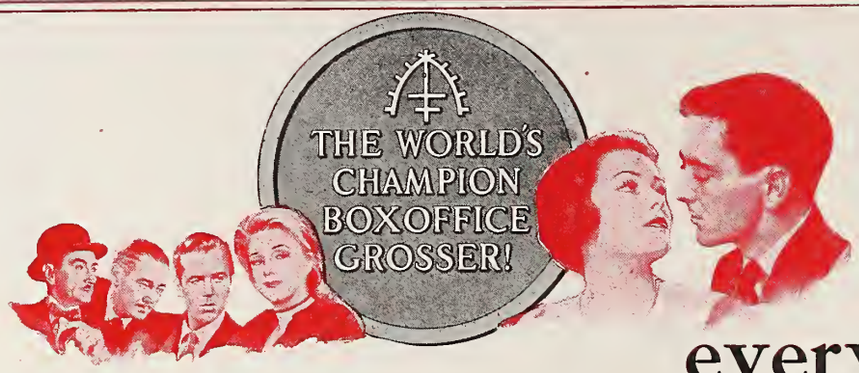
Beaton Joins Korda

Cecil Beaton, photographer-artist-designer, has joined the Alexander Korda organization as an associate producer, and left New York Friday on the *Queen Elizabeth* for England to supervise the costumes for Korda's first Oscar Wilde production, "Salome." Later he will design Korda's Technicolor production of Wilde's "The Ideal Husband," which the British producer recently purchased.

Brooks Will Produce

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 5. — Oscar Brooks, former Warner manager here, now distributing Mexican pictures, will start as a producer this year.

20th CENTURY-FOX



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EN IT PLAYS 20th CENTURY-FOX

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" *in Technicolor*
n Technicolor · "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY"

Myers Finds

(*Continued from page* 1)

will be "extremely busy" during the coming years to adequately and aggressively protect the interests of independent exhibitors when a final decree is rendered by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Commenting on an appeal, Myers stated: "So far as the government is concerned, it would seem to be honor-bound to appeal from this judgment. Its objectives have not been attained. The precedent created in rejecting divestiture or dissolution must be overruled if the law is to be effectively enforced in the future. Moreover, to permit these defendants to retain their vast theatre holdings whilst breaking up the lesser Crescent and Schine circuits not only would be unjust but would make the Sherman Act ridiculous."

Myers said that the competitive market envisaged by the court is a result of "its pet selling scheme." It cannot possibly be realized as long as the defendants retain their circuits. He also pointed to the danger of permitting the major defendants to cross-license each other.

Concluding his analysis, Myers said: "It is earnestly hoped that all parties will announce their positions promptly and that appeals will be filed promptly to the end that this eight and a half-year-old litigation may soon be brought to a final conclusion."

Fabian on Bidding

(*Continued from page* 1)

teurs attracted to the industry in the false belief that product is assured. He faces competition from affiliates who being assured of one product, their own, without competition, are placed in a superior bidding position for the best of the remaining product.

"Competitive bidding enables and almost directs distribution to adopt practices that will intensify rather than eliminate monopoly and will inevitably lead to further and multiplied proceedings down into the future."

Commenting on the ATA petition to intervene in the case, which was denied, rather than seek to appear as *amicus curiae,* Fabian said: "We have protected our right of appeal," and added "subject to approval by our board of directors our papers will be filed at an early date."

He concludes: "I make this statement because I want ATA members and the many thousands of non-member exhibitors who voted overwhelmingly in favor of ATA's intervention action to know that the fight is not over."

Appeal on NY Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

license for a single feature, the licensee shall be given by the licensor the right to reject 20 per cent of such features;" and Section Eight says that the offer of competitive bids shall specify "the time when the exhibition is to commence."

A second inconsistency, also regarded as grounds for appeal, is seen in that part of Section Eight which provides that a competitive bidding offer shall state the amount of a flat rental as the minimum for such license" and, at the same time, provides that the bid "may specify a flat rental, or a percentage of gross receipts, or both."

Meanwhile, this confusion in the competitive-bidding regulations set up by the court is giving distributor executives more concern than any other features of the decree, it was indicated at the weekend. They see the difficulty in determining which of two bids may be considered higher, when one is on a flat rental basis and the other in percentage terms, as leading to endless litigation. And the exhibitors share this fear, one company spokesman declared.

Nor do the distributors regard their problems as simplified by the court's "modification" of competitive bidding by limiting it to competitive areas and to instances where exhibitors request it. Some theatre owners in all such areas will call for bids, and the isolated situations never did present any problems, they point out.

Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox vice-president and general sales manager, intends to move slowly in putting the bidding provisions into effect, he said at the weekend. First he will call his home office organization together for a thorough discussion of the decree's terms and will then hold meetings with key field personnel, both to get their views and the views of exhibitors with whom they have come in contact. These interpretations will be sifted and will have a bearing on the company's final policy. Connors indicated that 20th-Fox will take full advantage of the time between now and the July 1 effective date of the bidding procedure, as well as of any additional time which may be granted by a stay pending the outcome of an appeal.

Most other companies are expected to follow a similar course, although at least two of them, RKO and M-G-M, already have conducted some competitive sales on a limited basis. William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice president in charge of distribution, whose "experiments" with bids have not been regarded as entirely successful, has called for a breakdown of the decree to be sent to him in Florida, where he is planning to remain until Jan. 20.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

can resort to arbitration," one distributor spokesman said, observing that the benefits of the nationwide, organized system heretofore in effect have been taken away by the new decree.

Company executives, however, are expected to hold meetings in the near future to explore the practicality, if any, of offering the voluntary form of arbitration. They have been anxious to see the arbitration principle continued, with its scope even broadened, but they regard the court's action as a blow to the cause.

Among factors to be considered before a final decision is reached are whether the New York case will be appealed and, if so, how many and what features of the final decree will be stayed pending the appeal's outcome. Arbitration rulings which might later be upset by Supreme Court action are to be avoided, the distributors feel.

Opinion Divided

Opinion appeared to be divided among several company attorneys whether or not the 60-day stay of operation contained in the decree would apply to the AAA. If it does, then presumably an appeal would extend arbitration another 30 days thereafter.

At the AAA offices here, J. Noble Braden, executive director of the film division, asserted that in view of the confusion over the question of current operations of the AAA, "we will sit tight and wait until something happens." The division itself has not yet set up any policy on whether it will continue to accept new cases, and would decide if, and when, a new complaint is filed with the board, he added.

The Association, which now has about 33 industry cases before its regional offices and two appeals, will comply with the decree's order to liquidate, but there is no plan yet for the actual process of dissolution, according to an official of the association.

Operations of the AAA have been on an interim basis since last Nov. 30, when its last budget concluded and Braden disclosed several weeks ago that the five companies which were parties to the original consent decree have continued to finance the activities of the 31 tribunals on a pro rata basis since.

Many Boston Cases

The Boston board, with its six or seven cases, is the tribunal with the top number of cases still to be cleared, but this does not necessarily mean that it would be the final office to be dissolved, according to Braden, who pointed out that the amount of time needed for disposition varies with the case. He added that it was "quite possible" that a tribunal with only one case might be the last to remain in operation. Since the appeal board would have to remain available to entertain any subsequent action on awards, he said, the New York board would be the final section to be liquidated.

Complaints are also on file with the tribunals in Cleveland, Des Moines, New Haven, Chicago, New Orleans, New York, St. Louis and Milwaukee. The remaining 21 boards with no cases before them, presumably will be liquidated in short order if it is decided that no additional complaints can be considered.

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Harry Blair, COlumbus 5-6500

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*Noted for his outstanding displays on such pictures as "Sergeant York," "High, Wide and Handsome" and "In Old Chicago," to name only a few and whose FLYING SPECTACULAR (Dirigible) is the Talk of all New York!

See Admission Tax In Twelve States

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—A race between municipal and state governments to impose local admission tax laws is reported here by the Motion Picture Association. It is predicted that more state tax measures will be adopted during 1947 than any year in history.

As 44 state legislatures prepare to meet the governors of an estimated 12 states will recommend theatre taxes on admissions.

In Texas, an association of municipal officials has drafted proposed state legislation which would give cities authority to tax theaters. Under Texas law, only the state can tax the amusement business. Exhibitors in that state are reported to be organizing to fight the proposed bill.

It is pointed out at the MPA office here that once a statewide admission tax law is passed, municipal governments seldom impose local taxes. In many areas local governments are planning quick passage of tax measures in order to beat the state.

Tennessee's Governor Jim McCord, has already gone on record in favor of a state luxury tax to include theater admissions.

Tulsa, Okla., has already passed a local admission tax with other cities in that state reported to be planning to take the same course. Cities in Alabama and California are said to be drafting local admission tax ordinances.

The MPA points to the danger of local theater taxation, because such action causes publicity, and when a key city in any area passes an admission tax other municipalities follow suit.

The MPA refused to disclose the number of states which impose admissions taxes on theaters, the reason given being that it would single out certain states which do not impose the tax, and possibly cause more tax laws to be enacted.

Primary reason for the increasing number of state tax proposals is the drastic need for revenue in many states, according to a spokesman of the MPA, who asserted that special state veterans' benefits, highway repairs neglected during the war, and school improvements must now be met by state budgets.

'Sinbad the Sailor' Trade Showings Set

RKO Radio Pictures will screen its Technicolor "Sinbad the Sailor" at the Normandie Theatre, New York, on Monday, Jan. 13 and on the same day at the Ambassador Theatre, Los Angeles.

It will again be shown on Jan. 28 in the following exchange centers: Albany, Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Haven, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Sioux Falls, Washington. The Des Moines screening will be held on Jan. 29.

Greek Orphans

(*Continued from page* 1)

ecutive vice-president of RKO, are co-chairmen of the Motion Picture Industry Appeal for the Orphans of Greece, which will conduct the "adoption" drive during the month from Feb. 15 to March 15 in conjunction with the Greek War Relief Association, of which Skouras is a past president and one of the founders. No solicitation of theatre audiences will be sought during the drive.

"Our goal is to secure support for at least 15,000 orphans, the innocent and most pitiful victims of World War II," Fabian said. "The Greek War Relief Association, in cooperation with the Greek government is endeavoring to find foster homes for orphaned chldren. When a proper home is found, the Association places the child, provides funds for clothing and food and generally overseas his care. To do this, the Association must contribute $80 per child, to which the Greek government adds $40 to make up the minimum necessary to provide for the care of one child for one year."

"We have settled on this plan of child support," Fabian said, "for we believe it is the most constructive method by which the industry can help the unfortunate victims of the war. We believe that it will be the finest living monument we can erect to one of our industry leaders, Spyros Skouras."

He added that he believed the campaign not only would bring valuable publicity to the Greek War Relief Association's 1947 drive for a $12,000,000 goal for all relief purposes, but that it would have an inestimable public relations value for the industry itself.

Sam Shain, director of trade relations for 20th Century-Fox, is assistant co-chairman of the campaign. The organizing and promotion committee is headed by Ben Serkowich, advertising-publicity director of Columbia; S. Barret McCormick, advertising-publicity director of RKO Radio; Leon Bamberger of RKO, and Ray Murray of Columbia. National executive and advisory committees are to be named, as are local committees with exhibitor and distributor representation, and a Hollywood committee.

Schanberger Heads Baltimore Variety

BALTIMORE, Jan. 5.—Fred J. Schanberger of Keith's Theatre here has been named chief barker of the Variety Club, tent No. 19. Others newly elected include Fred Schmuff, first assistant barker; Mark Silver second assistant barker, Chauncey Wolfe, secretary; Spaulding Albert as treasurer.

New canvasmen are: William Myers, Robert C. Embry, Samuel Taber, Al Vogelstein, Stanley Baker and Leon Back. Rodney Collier was elected national canvasman.

Century Circuit Drive

The second of Century Theatres' seasonal box-office drives started over the weekend. Winning theatre personnel will get a four-day trip to Timberdoodle Lodge, Lake Placid home of Fred J. Schwartz, vice-president of the company.

The current effort, according to J. R. Springer, general theatre manager, will run for 10 weeks.

Russian Films Hit By Soviet Paper

Whereas Ilya Ehrenburg, Soviet writer, could find nothing but trash coming from Hollywood studios during his recent American visit, the Soviet film industry now is charged by an official Communist newspaper, *Culture and Life*, with a backwardness which "can no longer be tolerated," according to a Moscow despatch to the *New York Times*.

The Communist paper charges the Soviet film industry with "criminal squandering and pilferage of state property," among other things, and hits at production, direction and acting in Soviet films, asserting that as a result of those practices the pictures "look alike."

The Soviet magazine said that Russian studios required 11 and one-half months to complete a film in 1940; 17 months in 1945, and "still longer" in 1946.

Mary M. McBride to Para.

Mary Margaret McBride, radio commentator who is heard five days weekly over station WNBC, has been signed to a one-year contract by Paramount to promote all principal engagements of the company's productions in the New York area. Paramount is her first film sponsor. The contract takes effect immediately. Miss McBride is the fourth commentator whose services are being used locally to promote Paramount product; The others are Arthur Godfrey, Martin Black and Ted Husing.

13 Distributors Sued

(*Continued from page* 1)

James E. Coston, Warner Theatres executive.

In his complaint Philon charges that his Liberty, which was formerly the Lake Theatre operated by the Manta-Rose circuit, has been unable to obtain product. Philon is asking for first and second runs in Michigan City, and asks that he be allowed to bid on all pictures from all companies. Handling the case for Philon is Seymour Simon, of the Schradzke and Gould law firm, a former Department of Justice attorney.

Named as defendants in the case are the following distributors: Loew's, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Brothers, Paramount, Columbia, Universal, United Artists, Republic, Monogram, PRC, Screen Guild and Film Classics, plus the Manta-Rose Circuit, and Coston, the latter is referred to as owner of substantial stock in Manta-Rose. Aaron Stein of the Rosenberg, Stein and Rosenberg law firm has been appointed to handle the case for the M-R circuit.

Zenith Reports Loss

Zenith Radio Corp. reports an estimated consolidated net loss for the six months ended Oct. 31, amounting to $649,649, after depreciation, excise taxes, normal reserves and provision for income taxes of subsidiaries and a tax carry-back due to the parent company. Consolidated operating loss for the period amounted to $2,198,953. This loss was partially offset by tax carry-backs, less income taxes of subsidiaries.

RKO RADIO PICTURES'
NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING
of
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA ★ WALTER SLEZAK
in
"SINBAD THE SAILOR"
WITH
ANTHONY QUINN • GEORGE TOBIAS
JANE GREER • MIKE MAZURKI
Produced by STEPHEN AMES • Directed by RICHARD WALLACE
Screen Play by JOHN TWIST
IN TECHNICOLOR
RKO RADIO PICTURES
NORMANDIE THEATRE
51 East 53rd Street, at Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
MONDAY, JANUARY 13
at 10:30 A.M. SHARP

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 4 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1947 TEN CENTS

U.S. to Protest New French Film Barrier

MPA Says Law Violates Blum-Byrnes Agreement

The State Department is currently investigating the new French edict on U. S. Film dubbing, which would seriously impair the position of Hollywood product, with a formal protest to the French Government in view, according to the Motion Picture Association here.

The new French regulations, which were promulgated Dec. 26 and made effective Jan. 1, dictate that all American product must be approved by three French Ministries—Information, National Economy and National Finance—before it may be dubbed in

(*Continued on page 8*)

Company Operators Get New 15% Raise

Home office projectionists of Local No. 306 of the Motion Picture operators union, IATSE, have been granted a second 15 per cent salary increase within a year under the terms of a two-year agreement signed by the local's president, Herman Gelber, and L. E. Thompson of RKO, chairman of the employers' committee, it was disclosed yesterday by 306 head-

(*Continued on page 7*)

E-K Film Division Promotes Sixteen

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 6.—Promotion of 16 executives at Kodak Park, Eastman Kodak's film and paper-manufacturing division, have been announced by Charles K. Flint, general manager of the plant. The appointments, follow:

Gerould T. Lane, former assistant to the general manager, named assistant manager; Clarence L. A.

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"Ladies' Man" is reviewed on page 10; key city grosses are on pages 9 and 10.

Film Lawyers Convene Here

Counsel for all eight companies which are parties to the New York Federal Court decree exchanged views and interpretations of the various provisions of the decision in a day-long session at the New York office of the Motion Picture Association yesterday. The conference was the first of many planned, including one for every day this week.

Following yesterday's confab, Austin Keough, general counsel for Paramount, and John Caskey, 20th Century-Fox attorney, made it clear that the complete analysis of the court's ruling and conclusions on its possible effects will require considerable time.

(*Continued on page 7*)

US Appeal Delayed Until First of March

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The Government's appeal to the Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit may not be ready for filing until the March 1 deadline, Robert L. Wright of the Department of Justice said here today.

Preparation and approval of the

(*Continued on page 7*)

To Weigh Decree at M-G-M Sales Meet

Chicago, Jan. 6.—With William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of sales presiding, M-G-M will hold a conference of the company's division sales managers at the Drake Hotel on Feb. 3-4. It is understood that the decree handed down by the New York Federal Court last week will occupy the major portion of the meeting.

Wehrenberg Favors M.P. Forum Now

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 6.—With the filing of the decree in the Government's New York anti-trust suit last week, steps may be taken immediately to advance a Motion Picture Forum to handle exhibitor-distributor grievances, Fred Wehrenberg, president of the MPTOA and author of the Forum plan, said today.

"I see no reason for further delaying consideration of the Motion Picture Forum, if it is agreeable to all parties concerned to proceed with it," Wehrenberg said.

The need for some such organization has been increased by the termination of industry arbitration as a

(*Continued on page 7*)

Zukor Cites Paramount Theatre Partnerships

By TOM LOY

Paramount's relationship with its theatre partners, which played an important role in the development of the motion picture, still has a great deal of permanent value for the industry as a whole and should be permitted to continue, in the opinion of Adolph Zukor, chairman of the company's board of directors, who observes his 74th birthday today and his 44th year in the film business.

Adolph Zukor

Under last week's final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, Paramount has been given two years to build up its interest to at least 95 per cent in those of its partly-owned theatres of which the further acquisition may be approved by Federal Court, or to reduce such interests to a maximum of five per cent.

Regarding the contribution he feels these partnerships have made to the industry, Zukor points out that Paramount, from its inception, determined "to make the type of pictures which required good theatres. "We resorted to all kinds of plans," including the partnerships, "to enable exhibitors to build and develop good houses," he explains, adding: "Had we not taken that step 20 years ago, we should never have been able to pioneer in the development of the motion picture toward the high standard it has reached."

Zukor sees the anti-trust suit decision, by and large, as a threat to the continued growth of the industry, but

(*Continued on page 7*)

Truman Calls For Retention Of Ticket Tax

Asks for Legislation on Labor and Trust Laws

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—President Truman in his annual message to Congress today:

1. Disclosed plans to urge the continuance of the wartime 20 per cent admission tax and other excise levies.

2. Urged the enactment of labor legislation to prevent jurisdictional strikes such as the one which has been on in Hollywood for months.

3. Urged the support of a program of vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws.

In urging the extension of the admission and other excise levies, which

(*Continued on page 7*)

Allied Board Will Study Tax Action

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The meeting of the board of directors of Allied States to be held here on Jan. 31, will discuss the possibilities of repeal or reduction of the basic Federal admission tax rate, Abram F. Myers, Allied chairman and general counsel, says in an organization bulletin released today.

Myers points out that whether repeal or reduction of the tax is possible during this session of Congress

(*Continued on page 7*)

Budget Is Due for Government Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—President Truman will submit a national budget to Congress on Wednesday which will embrace Government film activities in every major department, it was learned here today.

While the GOP-controlled Congress is almost certain to cut a majority of "informational" expenditures of the Government, the Republicans are expected to retain State and Commerce

(*Continued on page 8*)

U's 'Swell Guy' in 1st Train Premiere

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6.—The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad tonight became the nation's first railroad to institute regular nightly on-train showings of new motion pictures with the world premiere of Universal's "Swell Guy," produced by Mark Hellinger, aboard its *George Washington,* bound from Washington to this city.

More than 50 newspaper representatives from New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Richmond, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Louisville and Chicago, as well as C. and O. and "U" representatives made the trip as guests of Robert R. Young, C. and O. board chairman. Ann Blyth, star of "Swell Guy," was also a guest.

To provide for this first regular "theatre on wheels" until specially-built cars, now under construction, are available, the C. and O. used a specially-adapted twin-unit dining car, seating 50 persons.

As previously reported, the C. and O. has signed a year's contract with Universal to exhibit its releases on the *George Washington* operating between Newport News and Cincinnati and later on the *Chessie,* which will carry the specially-built theatre cars. Each "U" release, starting with "The Dark Mirror," will be shown for two weeks on the *George Washington,* operating in both directions. No admission charge will be made since the C. and O. is making these regular nightly showings a part of its regular service to passengers. In this connection the C. and O. has withdrawn from the American Association of Railroads, which is being sued by the Department of Justice with one of the allegations being an attempt to block the showing of motion pictures on trains.

Besides the newspaper representatives, among those making the initial trip as guests were: R. J. Bowman, president; Arthur S. Genet, vice-president in charge of traffic and H. L. Porterfield, public relations director, all of the C. and O., and Al Horwits, Charles Simonelli, Ben Katz, Milton Livingston and Robert Wile of "U."

'Duel' Grosses $40,670 For a Coast Record

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Record-breaking receipts, topping the first week's box-office record set by "Gone With the Wind," are reported for the six days of David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" at the Egyptian and Vogue Theatres here. The precedent-setting total for the six-day engagement is $40,670, according to the management.

The film is being shown on a reserved seat, two performances a day basis, and the theatres estimate that $5,000 worth of business a day is being turned away.

Freedgood Leaves Rank

Morton Freedgood has resigned from the J. Arthur Rank Organization to devote his entire time to the writing of fiction. Freedgood has a serial in the current *Good Housekeeping* under the pseudonym of John Godey. Doubleday will publish it in book form in the spring.

Personal Mention

LOUIS NIZER, film attorney, has returned to New York from Arizona.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, Central sales manager of 20th-Fox, has returned to New York from Buffalo, where he was hospitalized for the past week. He is now at home to receive further treatment.

•

HAL WALLIS has returned to his desk at Paramount's Coast studio after recuperating from bruises sustained when he was thrown by a horse on New Year's Day.

•

RICHARD LIGHTMAN, Malco executive at Memphis, is hospitalized there following an operation. He is a son of M. A. LIGHTMAN, SR., Malco president.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia's assistant general sales manager, will leave New York today, for a two-week trip to Minneapolis, Des Moines and Kansas City.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatres, will leave here today for Philadelphia and Washington; he will return to New York on Thursday.

•

REX TAYLOR, Paramount's Eastern pictorial coordinator, has returned to New York from the Midwest.

HAL ROACH has left the Coast in his private plane for Florida.

•

JIMMY MANION, projectionist at Loew's State, St. Louis, who has been with the company 27 years, has received a diamond-studded service pin from the mayor of the city.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager for Warner Bros., has been in Albany, N. Y., for a meeting with RAY S. SMITH, branch manager, and salesmen.

•

CHARLES RICH, Warner. district manager of Cleveland, will confer with JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager, in Pittsburgh this week.

•

WILLIAM A. CLARK, RKO assistant division manager at Cincinnati, has returned there from a Florida vacation.

•

MARVIN BANK, operator of Kansas theatres, was married last week to MISS DOROTHY DAVISON of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

•

JUDD N. GREEN, recently discharged from the Army as a major, has been named manager of the Admiral Theatre at Omaha.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER distribution vice-president of Republic, left Hollywood by plane yesterday for New York.

Traube Made Official Of Ferris Company

Leonard Traube, whose resignation as editor-in-chief of *The Billboard* became effective Jan. 1, joins the Earle Ferris organization, public relations counsel, as vice-president on Jan. 13. He will head a special creative division of the Ferris organization.

Traube joined *The Billboard* in 1931 as an associate editor after four years as newspaperman, press agent and artist representative, including a post-apprenticeship under Alexander Woollcott in the drama department of the old *New York World.* For a brief period he was engaged in play producing. In 1936 he left *The Billboard* by mutual agreement to create publicity, advertising and promotion machinery for George A. Hamid, Inc., booking and producing company. He rejoined the tradepaper in 1938.

SRO Branch Opened In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 6.—Space has been leased in the Pence Building to be used as branch headquarters in the Minneapolis film zone for the sales staff of the recently formed Selznick Releasing Organization. Present plans call for the Minneapolis branch to start actual operations on Feb. 1, with a branch manager yet to be selected by Samuel Horowitz, SRO district sales manager.

This will make SRO's 11th domestic branch.

Phil Laufer Named Monogram Publicist

Phil Laufer has been named to the Eastern publicity department of Monogram Pictures by Louis S. Lifton, that company's national advertising-publicity director.

Prior to joining Monogram, Laufer was with Universal for two years and was press contact for the Winter Garden and Criterion Theatres. Laufer first entered the business with Vitagraph, subsequently joining Warners, where he did publicity for the Strand and Hollywood Theatres. In 1936 he became associated with the Macon Amusement Corp., which built what is now Loew's Criterion, and after a few months became its publicity director. He moved to the Rivoli after six years, transferred to United Artists in 1943, and after a year joined Universal.

Bonuses at Luncheon To Skouras Managers

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—Charles Skouras has planed back to Los Angeles after presenting bonus checks to employes of National Theatres and Fox West Coast. At a large luncheon at the St. Francis Hotel, Skouras entertained all Northern Californa managers and George Bowser, general manager of FWC. Also attending were John Bertero, general counsel; Harry Cox, treasurer for National Theatres, and Cullen Espy, head booker and buyer for FWC. The meeting was arranged by Richard Spier, division manager for West Coast.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
With 13 BIG STARS
in Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S SONG OF THE SOUTH IN TECHNICOLOR

Darryl F. Zanuck presents JOHN FORD'S MY DARLING CLEMENTINE
20th CENTURY-FOX
NOW! RIVOLI B'way at 49th St. Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN 1st N.Y. Showing! All New Adventures 'THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO' LOUIS HAYWARD BARBARA BRITTON A Columbia Picture
IN PERSON Paul Small presents SHOWTIME OF 1947 Starring THE SLATE BROS. plus All-Star Cast

Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts in "Cross My Heart" A Paramount Picture
In Person! THE ANDREWS SISTERS LES PAUL & HIS TRIO Extra! TONY PASTOR And Band
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"Tender...brimming with human warmth" —WALTER WINCHELL
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Darryl F. Zanuck's production of W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S
The Razor's Edge
20th Century-Fox
and Great Stage Revue!
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Hammond to Allied

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Jack Kirsch Illinois Allied president, has announced the addition of the Hammond Theatre in suburban Hammond, Indiana, to the Allied organization as well as its buying and booking circuit. Harold Lieber is owner.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

BEAUTIFUL, DESIRABLE,

LOVELY—YET READY TO

KILL!...DRIVEN BY

THE EVIL HIDDEN

IN A TRAGIC

TRINKET!

HER MONSTROUS SECRET

WRECKED 3 MEN'S LIVES!

RKO
Presents

LARAINE DAY · BRIAN AHERNE
ROBERT MITCHUM · GENE RAYMOND

The Locket

WITH

SHARYN MOFFET
RICARDO CORTEZ
HENRY STEPHENSON

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Produced by BERT GRANET · Directed by JOHN BRAHM

Written by SHERIDAN GIBNEY

NOT LOVE...
NOT MONEY....
BUT A HAUNTING HUNGER
MADE HER LIE, CHEAT,
STEAL. WHY? . . .
IT'S THE STRANGEST SECRET EVER TOLD!

ANOTHER GREAT RKO CAMPAIGN!!!

. . PENETRATING
ALL AMERICA WITH
FULL-PAGE BLACK AND WHITE ADS
IN ALL THE IMPORTANT
WEEKLY AND MONTHLY MAGAZINES, AND WITH
FOUR-COLOR ADS IN THE MAGAZINE SECTIONS OR
SUPPLEMENTS OF 75 BIG SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS
. . . A TOTAL OF

89,745,975 CIRCULATION

LIST INCLUDES:
LIFE, SATURDAY EVENING POST,
LOOK, COLLIER'S, LIBERTY,
WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, LADIES' HOME JOURNAL,
McCALL'S, AMERICAN, PIC, COSMOPOLITAN, TRUE,
TRUE CONFESSIONS, TRUE STORY, REDBOOK, FAN LIST,
AMERICAN WEEKLY, PARADE, THIS WEEK,
INDEPENDENT SECTIONS

RKO IS THE BIGGEST NATIONAL MAGAZINE ADVERTISER IN THE MOTION PICTURE FIELD!!

LITHO U.S.A.

Truman Calls

(*Continued from page* 1)

would expire next July 1, the President said while addressing the joint session of Congress that such a recommendation will be contained in the budget message which he will send to Congress on Wednesday.

Last week the President eliminated a majority of his temporary war powers. This action would slash the admissions rate from one cent on each five to one cent on each 10, unless Congress acts otherwise.

The President explained to Congress that the excise increases should be continued in order to balance the budget and continue the operations of the Government.

Republican reaction to the President's proposal was vague. It is believed that it may be expedient for the GOP to continue the wartime excise rates in order to fulfill the promise to reduce personal income tax.

In urging Congress to enact labor legislation to prevent jurisdictional disputes, the President placed jurisdictional labor problems as first on the agenda of "must" legislation.

Following the pattern of a recent recommendation made by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, the President said that there is no excuse for internal union disputes which tie up industry and the public for no good reason.

Hints "Monopoly" Laws

And in urging Congress to support a program of vigorous enforcement of the anti-trust laws, the President also hinted that "special monopoly" legislation may be required.

Calling it his second major policy, the President told the joint session that despite half a century of anti-trust law enforcement, one of the gravest threats to the country's welfare lay in the increasing concentration of power in the hands of a small number of "giant" organizations.

In his budget message to be delivered on Wednesday, the President will ask for a large appropriation for the Justice Department's anti-trust division, headed by Wendell Berge, Assistant U. S. Attorney General.

Commenting on a dangerous trend toward monopoly, President Truman stated: "During the war, this long-standing tendency toward economic concentration was accelerated. As a consequence, we now find that to a greater extent than ever before, whole industries are predominantly one or a few large organizations.

"We should also give special attention to the decentralization of industry and the development of areas that are now under-industrialized."

Company Operators

(*Continued from page* 1)

quarters. The contract is retroactive to Sept. 1, 1946.

Companies included in the new contract are: Ace Film Laboratories, Columbia, Hearst Metrotone News, Loew's, Movietone News, National Screen Service, Paramount, Pathe, RKO-Pathe, RKO Radio, Republic, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Universal and Warners.

Prefabricated Theatre

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Fox West Coast will open its first prefabricated theatre at Long Beach Jan. 22 with formal preview ceremonies.

Bidding Plan Contrary to Trust Laws, Says Arnold

Competitive-bidding provisions of the final decree in the New York equity case are "contrary to the purposes of the anti-trust laws," according to Thurman Arnold, counsel for the American Theatres Association, who holds that the U. S. Supreme Court must be asked to strike down these provisions, the ATA announced here yesterday.

"I have examined the memorandum of the statutory court and the provisions of its decree," Arnold said: "I am, of course, gratified that the court took our objections to competitive bidding so seriously that it rephrased its decree in an attempt to meet some of those criticisms. It is however, my considered judgment that the modifications which the court has made leave unaffected the basic difficulty of the original proposal contained in the court's opinion of June 11.

"The decree as entered on Dec. 31 still sanctions competitive bidding as a means of licensing films. The evils of this system are that it will strengthen the monopoly position of the defendants in the action and will deprive independent exhibitors of their present protection against monopolistic practices of the defendants. In my opinion the present form of decree presents the same serious threat to exhibitors as the original decree," Arnold concluded.

The New York court has denied the ATA's petition to intervene in the case, and this denial will be appealed, Arnold had previously declared.

M.P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

result of the court's decree, it was pointed out, and also because considerable time is expected to elapse before the U. S. Supreme Court decides the appeals from the decree which are now in prospect.

Wehrenberg's proposal for the formation of an industry Forum to hear and endeavor to resolve exhibitor-distributor grievances was first made at the Allied States convention in Boston last September. Subsequently, Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, who was suggested by Wehrenberg as a logical leader for the Forum, said that he would serve the organization if invited to do so.

Film Lawyers

(*Continued from page* 1)

It follows, they said in effect, that any appeal action could hardly be anticipated at an early date. Caskey pointed to the fact that the defendants have 60 days, from Dec. 31, in which to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Questioned on Paramount's position in regard to its theatre holdings in the event the decision is sustained in the higher court, Keough replied that the case has yet to emerge from litigation.

Exhibition of Film Paintings Today

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's salute to motion picture advertising art will begin here today with the exhibition of several paintings presented in cooperation with 20th Century-Fox, which have loaned their gallery of special paintings to the art center. Featured in the exhibition will be four canvases specially created for the advertising campaign on the company's "The Late George Apley." The artists are Dean Cornwell, Douglass Crockwell, John Falter and Robert Benney.

Several other paintings used on various 20th Century-Fox campaigns will also be on view, including the canvases painted by Norman Rockwell for "The Song of Bernadette" and "The Razor's Edge."

Allied Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

will be more apparent after the newly-organized committees on ways and means and finance begin to function.

Meanwhile, the Allied leader again warns exhibitors "to be on guard lest revenue-hungry municipalities" endeavor to supplant the Federal war rates by local admission taxes beginning July 1. He points out that in addition to Congress the legislatures of 44 states will be in session and urges regional exhibitor associations to develop public relations programs and establish contacts with their legislators in the campaigns to prevent unreasonable or discriminatory taxation of theatres.

US Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

appeal may consume the entire 60 days allowed by law, it was pointed out, because the document must travel through departmental channels. As a first step, to be taken immediately, Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge will recommend to the Solicitor General that the New York decree be appealed. All decisions regarding carrying cases to the high tribunal must be passed upon by this officer.

The Government's appeal is expected to be primarily on the court's refusal to order divorcement of affiliated theatres but may include other points as well.

Refusal of Ban on 'Outlaw' Criticized

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 6.—"Refusal of the motion picture division of the New York State Department of Education to revoke the permit for the showing of 'The Outlaw' is further evidence of the weakening of public agencies entrusted with the task of safeguarding civic morality," says an editorial in the current issue of *The Evangelist*, weekly publication of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese.

"The broadmindedness of the motion picture division," the editorial declares, "offers little hope of stemming any increase in the tide of salacious films. The most telling protest is to refrain from attending show houses that present offensive films."

16 E-K Promotions

(*Continued from page* 1)

Wynd, formerly assistant general superintendent of film departments, succeeds to Lane's position; Neil S. Kocher, formerly superintendent of the chemical plant, succeeds Wynd.

Donald B. Kimball was named assistant general superintendent of paper departments from his previous post as superintendent of the paper mills, to be succeeded by Kenneth J. Mackenzie, former assistant superintendent of the paper mills. Marion E. Russell, formerly assistant to the general superintendent of film departments, has been promoted to superintendent of that department, while John H. Folwell, previously assistant superintendent of the chemical plant, has been designated superintendent.

Carl J. Malm, formerly assistant superintendent of the chemical plant, has been appointed superintendent of cellulose acetate development, and George A. Richter, previously assistant superintendent of the wood cellulose development, has been promoted to superintendent.

Appointed assistant superintendents were: Dr. Rudolph E. Damschroder, emulsion research; W. E. Sillick, chemical plant; Geoffrey Broughton, paper-service department, technical development section; Harry E. Smith, product control section of the paper-service department; Ralph W. Peters, paper mills; Harold C. Gunderson, plant service division; Harry E. Paddock, film-waste control.

Zukor

(*Continued from page* 1)

he is confident that, in the long run, "the powers that be in the United States will recognize the value of pictures and that, in the last analysis, nothing will be done to injure the industry." Pointing to the public service which films rendered during the war, he declares: "We can do twice as much in the future."

During 1946, Zukor finds from personal observation both here and abroad, that the producers took careful stock of public reactions and found that more thoughtful pictures, with more human and less overdrawn characters, are desired. It was also, he finds, a year of "sobering up" after serious difficulties, especially in the labor field, with indications pointing to 1947 as a time of "smoother sailing." He believes there will be no marked business recession in the industry for at least eight or 10 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Zukor's golden wedding anniversary will be celebrated on Friday with a dinner at the Savoy-Plaza Hotel here. On Jan. 24 he will leave for several months in Hollywood to relay to Paramount's production executives the observations made during his extensive European survey last month.

Macks Miss Plane Crash

Irving Mack, head of Filmack, Chicago, arrived here from Miami by train yesterday after having canceled earlier reservations on the charter transport plane which crashed at Carmel, N. J., in Sunday night's storm, killing three and injuring 19. Mack, who was accompanied by Mrs. Mack, said they had canceled their accommodations on the ill-fated Miami to Newark, N. J., plane upon hearing of bad weather conditions in the north.

French Production Takes Hard Blows

French production is in a deplorable state. This blue note was sounded here yesterday by Emil Bourcart, president of Western Hemisphere Films, who has returned to New York from a business trip to France. Bourcart also brought back with him an ominous warning to American distributors: the French public must not be systematically overfed with American product lest an unreasonable prejudice against U. S. films develops in that country.

French production, Bourcart reports, is lagging seriously as the result of the sudden withdrawal of all financial aid by the country's four great nationalized banks, unreasonably high production costs, and the uncertain electric service that makes studio schedules impossible to maintain. Many producers in Paris, he added, have stopped making pictures altogether because of these handicaps.

While the power service and financing problems will be overcome ultimately, according to Bourcart, the American industry must cooperate in aiding the French industry's recovery by refraining from glutting the French market with Hollywood product. While recognizing that large American distributors have already started spontaneously to restrict shipments to France, Bourcart deplored the over-shipping policies of "independents who are not subject to any regulation whatever."

PRC, Eagle - Lion Northwest Meeting

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 6.—Abbott Swartz, PRC district manager, is pinch hitting for the ailing Max Roth, Eastern sales manager, conducting the joint New PRC-Eagle-Lion meeting yesterday and today to discuss sales policy and plans on "Bedelia" and "It's a Joke, Son," first two releases of the new E-L company, and "Her Sister's Secret," "Devil on Wheels" and "Red Stallion," three new releases on the PRC schedule.

Also attending the meeting are Harry Mandell, district manager; Julius Edinson, special field representative, and Leon Brandy, of the exploitation staff, all with Eagle-Lion.

SIMPP Meet Scheduled

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Production managers for SIMPP members met today with Donald M. Nelson to discuss problems confronting producers. Nelson said the conference was preliminary to a full membership meeting later this week.

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Grant N. Y. Incorporation Papers to 12 More Firms

ALBANY, N. J., Jan. 6.—Twelve additional industry and quasi-industry firms were granted incorporation papers by the Office of the Secretary of State here. The companies involved are: American Tele-Film Corp., Apollo Associates, Astor Cinemas, Inc., Billflo Corp., Herbert Kerkow, Inc., Hollywood-Bound, Inc., Movies Enroute, Inc., Mutinca Electronics Corp., Phil Baker Enterprises, Inc., Sinatra Music Publishing Corp., Unity Films, Inc., and Westchester Amusement Co.

American Tele-Film, which will operate in New York, was incorporated by Martha B. Kemity, George I. Swatlow and Lillian Aschinoff, all of New York. Howard Pack was incorporating attorney for Apollo, a theatrical firm, with Leo Brecher, Walter Brecher and Frank Schiffman, all of New York, listed as incorporators.

Astor Cinemas will deal in motion pictures; incorporators are: Seymour Londner, Alexander E. Shanley, and incorporating attorney Harry G. Kosch. William Sussman and Florence P. Sussman, Yonkers, and Edith H. Maurer, Hawthorne, are incorporators of Billflo, which will conduct a theatrical business in Pleasantville; Clark and Gagliardi, White Plains, served as incorporating attorneys.

The Kerkow firm will deal in motion pictures and has listed as incorporators Herbert Kerkow, Benjamin Robbins and Julia Greenberger, all of New York; Samuel J. Ohringer, New York, was incorporating attorney. Hollywood-Bound will conduct a motion picture business in New York, with Beth Gold, Martha McKeon and Helena Kersavage, all of New York, as incorporators; Jaffe and McNulty, New York, served as incorporating attorneys.

Herbert S. Felner, Dora Liftman and Alice Eisnitz, all of New York, are incorporators of Movies Enroute, which will deal in motion pictures; incorporating attorney was Sarah Williamson, New York. A film laboratory business in New York will be conducted by Mutinca, which has for incorporators William J. Schlossberg and George Schlossberg, of New York, and Robert B. Berger, Paterson, N. J.; Simon Klein, New York, was incorporating attorney.

Continental Lawyers Albany Service, New York, was incorporating attorney for Phil Baker Enterprises, a New York theatrical organization, which has for incorporators Peter A. Lewis, Seward I. Benjamin and Frieda Klein, all of New York. A music publishing business will be conducted by the Sinatra corporation; Jaffe & Jaffe, New York, were incorporating attorneys.

Unity Films will conduct a motion picture business in New York; Milton Berger, New York, was incorporating attorney, and incorporators include Victor D. Lucy and Dora Solow, New York. Gerald J. A. Flannery and Elizabeth Kolb are the Westchester Amusement's incorporators; Arthur J. Doran, Yonkers, was incorporating attorney.

U.S. Protest

(*Continued from page* 1)

the native language. Additionally, the edict declares that "not more than two years shall have elapsed between the first presentation of a film to the public in its original version and the date on which the request for the dubbing permit is made."

Actually the decree is a revival of an old ordinance which had not been enforced. Carl Milliken, acting international foreign chief for the MPA, said here yesterday that the so-called Byrnes-Blum film accord of last May supercedes that ordinance.

He said that the new French action constitutes a new attempt to interfere with U. S. film business in that country, adding that it is certainly a violation of the May pact which ruled out discrimination against U. S. films. The Byrnes-Blum treaty had only one conditional provision, that being that French theatres reserve at least four weeks of every 13 for local product. To avert flooding the French market, the member companies of the MPA agreed to limit their exports to France to a total of 124 features for the 12 months beginning last June.

Milliken, who is in daily "touch" with Harold Smith, MPA representative in Paris, stated that the "two-year" provision in the new decree would further throttle the exhibition of U. S. films in that an abundance of U. S. pictures in that country were made shortly before and during the war.

The American companies hold the new edict particularly objectionable since, for the most part, only dubbed versions prosper. The French make one exception on the provision: "except when the film is of exceptional interest from an artistic or technical point of view."

Milliken said the now required dubbing permission will mean long delays in getting product processed, in addition to the gantlet of other censorship agencies which the finished product must face.

Budget Is Due

(*Continued from page* 1)

Department functions which assist the industry.

Among the Presidential requests will be "more emphasis" on State Department foreign trade functions. The film section presently operated by George Canty will remain untouched.

Commerce Department contributions to the industry, such as technical reports and business censuses will be a "top" appropriations request. The film industry profits from the Commerce business surveys abroad and also the section headed by Nathan D. Golden, which furnishes the industry with technical data when available.

The President will include in his budget request funds for the continuation of the Office of Government Reports, where the motion picture division is now located. President Truman recently assigned all Federal film activities to that agency.

For submission to Congress will be an appeal for cultural relations activities, including the use of 16mm. films abroad to build stronger international relations. Congress last year cut the cultural film program, and is expected to give it another slash.

March of Time and SAG in Agreement

The Screen Actors Guild and the March of Time have resolved their differences and signed a basic agreement, it was announced here yesterday.

The SAG recognizes that MOT films come within the definition of a newsreel, and the MOT acknowledges that, because of certain techniques & dramatic reenactment used on occasion, its employment of certain persons falls within the jurisdiction of the SAG.

To cover its production of commercial, documentary, or feature films, the MOT has signed the standard SAG forms covering these types of operation.

Blake Leaves Blaine To Join Erickson

Walter Blake, for the past eight years account executive handling Warner Brothers Pictures for the Blaine-Thompson agency, has resigned, effective Jan. 17, to join the Los Angeles office of McCann-Erickson, Inc., as account executive in charge of their motion picture business.

Blake began his advertising and film career in 1924 with First National Pictures. In 1930 he branched out as a free lance art director and contact man until 1936, when he joined N. W. Ayer and Son on national accounts. Three years later he resumed his association with Warner Bros.-First National as account executive working through Blaine-Thompson.

S. G. Alexander Joins Brisacher Ad Firm

Sidney G. Alexander, former advertising manager of Selznick International and Vanguard Films, here, has joined Brisacher, Van Norden and Staff, advertising engineers, as senior account executive, with headquarters in New York. Alexander will specialize in film accounts for the firm. At present he is supervising Monogram's radio advertising, and the account of United Artists producer Charles Rogers.

Alexander will leave New York next week for a trip to the Coast, and will return here around Feb. 1.

Wood Seeks Cooper; Going to Russia

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Sam Wood is negotiating for the services of Gary Cooper whom he wants for the lead in "The World in His Arms," Rex Beach's last novel, which Wood will make as an Inter-Wood Production for Universal-International release. Wood has assigned Lawrence Stallings to write the screenplay.

On completion of his current Inter-Wood production, "Ivy," the producer-director will go to Europe. He will seek a passport for entry into Russia to look for an actress to portray the lead.

Set 'Nora' Tradeshow

National tradeshowing of "Nora Prentiss," Warner production, has been set for Monday, Feb. 3. The picture is scheduled for general release late in February.

N. Y. 1st-Run Grosses Hold

The holiday box-office stimulation continued much in evidence the latter part of last week and particularly over the week-end at the majority of New York first-run theatres. While some decline is anticipated with the termination of the school vacation period, the current week's overall total looks very good with not too much of a drop under last week.

In sharp contrast to the business which film houses are enjoying is the drop in "luxury" money spending. Many of the town's expensive night spots are finding it increasingly difficult to lure patrons.

"It's a Wonderful Life" went into its third week at the Globe and its box-office activity shows that the film is finally catching on. Saturday and Sunday brought in $15,500, higher than the preceding two week-ends, and the week should catch $42,000, which is nice going. At the beginning of the run the show, while taking relatively high revenues for the house, was still running under expectations.

"Best Years" Still Good

"The Best Years of Our Lives," at the Astor, still proves itself a consistent top money-maker; a total of $56,000 is in view for the seventh week. "Stairway to Heaven" is doing capacity business at the Park where the second week, ending tonight, should wind up with $23,000; this is about $1,000 short of the gross for the first week but extra shows during that period must be taken into account.

The SRO sign told the story at the Music Hall through the week-end as thousands braved inclement weather in long lines which at times almost encircled the block. "Till the Clouds Roll By" and the annual holiday stage presentation combined to attract $88,000 Thursday through Sunday and the fifth week, ending tomorrow night, probably will bring $137,000.

"The Time, the Place and the Girl," with Vaughn Monroe's orchestra, at the Strand, also is dealing in big money, probably to hit $75,000 for the second week. At the Hollywood, $43,000 is expected for the second week of "Humoresque."

At the Roxy, "The Razor's Edge," with Rosario and Antonio topping the stage bill, figures to amass $110,000 in a seventh week. This is plenty strong, although representing a drop of about $65,000 under last week's figure.

"Secret Heart" $80,000

"The Secret Heart," with Tommy Dorsey's orchestra, is good for $80,000 in a second week at the Capitol, while the Palace sees a very handsome gross of $38,000 ahead for the sixth week of "Song of the South." The third week of "The Wicked Lady" should provide the Winter Garden with a nicely profitable $30,000 in its third week. "Temptation" at the Criterion was fair with an estimated $21,000 for the second and final week; "Love Laughs at Andy Hardy" will follow today.

"My Darling Clementine" at the Rivoli is not too impressive in its fifth week which figures to provide $23,000; "California" will bow in Jan. 14.

"The Beast with Five Fingers" is doing very well at the Victoria with $18,000 in view for the second week.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents*

PHILADELPHIA

"The Razor's Edge" is out in front during a week of generally healthy business. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 7-9:

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000)
MEET JOHN DOE (WB reissue)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $7,250)
UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—BOYD (3,000 (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $22,800)
BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Louis Prima. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $22,800)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $39,000. (Average: $28,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $26,000)
RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,800)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $28,300)
HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000.
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $23,800. (Average: $24,900)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $11,200)

BALTIMORE

Figures at the box-offices for the first week of 1947 are providing a Happy New Year for first-run theatre managers. Grosses for new shows are well above average despite two days of stormy weather. Attractions are strong, and holiday prices have helped. Nothing offers any outside competition. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 9:

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $15,000)
MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—KEITH'S (2,400) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $12,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c 60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $17,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) 7 days. With stage show. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER (Siritzky)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,500)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)

"Ladies' Man" will make its debut at the Gotham on Saturday, to follow "Abie's Irish Rose," which should take in a meager $9,000 in its third and final week. Also slated to arrive this week is "Murder in Reverse" on Friday at the Rialto where the current "The Overlanders" is on its way to a good $7,500 in a third and final week.

ST. LOUIS

"Till the Clouds Roll By" and "The Razor's Edge" are playing to impressive grosses. The temperature has been hovering around the zero mark. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8:

THE TIME, THE PLACE, THE GIRL (WB)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000)
MAN I LOVE (WB) and THE UNKNOWN (Col.)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $33,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $22,000. (Average: $12,500)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,000)
TILL THE END OF TIME (RKO Radio) and I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU (Rep.)—SHUBERT (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,500)

CINCINNATI

"The Razor's Edge" is heading for double the average at the RKO Palace, the best week at this house in many months. Practically all of the other houses are turning in good figures. The weather is cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 7-10:

TWO SMART PEOPLE (M-G-M)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-65c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Stage: Alvino Rey and orchestra, plus acts. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
MAN FROM RAINBOW VALLEY (Rep.) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,900. (Average: $1,600)
SINGING ON THE TRAIL (Col.) and I CAN'T ESCAPE (Popular)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,100)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $7,500)
KING'S ROW (WB reissue) and WILD BILL HICKOK RIDES (WB reissue)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Palace. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

"Blue Skies" set an all-time record at Radio City, to lead in a week of otherwise near-average grosses. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 9:

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—CENTURY (1,600) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,500)
DECOY (Mono.)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $3,400)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover from State. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,500)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $34,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,500)
KING'S ROW (WB reissue)—WORLD (350) (50c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Century. Gross: $2,800. (Average: $2,500)

ATLANTA

Business has shown a good recovery. The weather has been very cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 9:

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c). Gross: $17,500. (Average: $13,000)
NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (30c-60c). Gross: $8,300. (Average: $8,200)
MARGIE (20th-Fox)—ROXY (2,446) (50c-60c) 2nd week on moveover from Fox. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $5,600)
BAMBOO BLONDE (RKO Radio) and GAS HOUSE KIDS (PRC)—CAPITAL (44c-50c). Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,200)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (50c-60c) (2,554). Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,000)

OMAHA

Theatres here are starting out the new year with a banner week. An all-time record for the city was expected at one first-run. This is despite temperatures dropping as low as 13 below and snow on the ground. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 9-10:

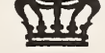
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—OMAHA(2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from Paramount. Gross: $9,900. (Average: $8,600)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $9,400)
THE TIME, THE PLACE, THE GIRL (WB)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $11,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,800)

(*Continued on page* 10)

Oklahoma City Slump

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 6.—Record-breaking low temperatures and a statewide snowstorm knocked box-office receipts down in Oklahoma during the past week, exhibitors reported.

Oklahoma City house managers said business was down as much as 40 per cent in downtown houses, and 20 to 40 per cent in neighborhoods.



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Key Grosses

(*Continued from page 9*)

TORONTO

First-run theatres in the downtown district got the worst of it when a severe snow and sleet storm, with wind, turned streets into a hazard and knotted traffic for three days during the first week of the New Year. Despite conditions for half the week, the theatres managed to get quite good crowds but far from what might have been with normal travel. Sport features were equally hard hit, with less than a thousand taking in the pro basketball fixture. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 6-7:

THE THRILL OF BRAZIL (Col.)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $5,100. (Average: $4,700)
THREE LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE (20th-Fox)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $14,300)
UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) — LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $16,300. (Average: $13,300)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $17,600. (Average: $14,600)
TEMPTATION (U)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,400. (Average: $11,400)
THE THRILL OF BRAZIL (Col.)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,800. (Average: $6,800)

LOS ANGELES

Grosses continued high at all first run theatres here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8.

TEMPTATION (U) and SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS (U)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: ——— (Average: $11,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — LOEW'S STATE — (2,500) (50c-60c-85c $1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $37,500. (Average: $26,200)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) — LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $24,600)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — LOYOLA (1,265) (50c 60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,700. (Average: $10,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,100)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $15,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,800)
THE VERDICT (WB) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $23,100)
LOVES LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,100. (Average: $8,900)
THE YEARLING (M-G-M) — CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $19,000)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $31,700. (Average: $14,000)
THE VERDICT (WB) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,300. (Average: $7,700)
THE VERDICT (WB) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio) FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $7,600)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,700)
TEMPTATION and SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $8,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $24,100)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,400)
TEMPTATION and SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,400. (Average: $9,300)
TEMPTATION (U) and SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS (U)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,800. (Average: $8,000)
TEMPTATION (U) and SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS (U)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $15,100)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $12,500)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO) — VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $8,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $21,600)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $16,100)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,700)

Review

"Ladies' Man"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Jan. 6

AH, there's good news tonight—this being, of course, the night you are running "Ladies' Man"—and the good news is that the customers can put aside their cares and relax for an hour and a half in the company of Eddie Bracken, Cass Daley, Spike Jones and his City Slickers and a lot of other people who attempt nothing more tremendous nor significant than to amuse everybody present. In a flow of product overloaded with films intended to thrill, shock, inspire, instruct, to overwhelm in one way or another, a fast, light flight of humorous fancy like this is as welcome as recess time to a schoolboy befogged by textbooks. It figures to be about as popular.

The tale unfolded by these merrily industrious entertainers concerns the adventures of an Oklahoma farm boy (Bracken) whose acres have abruptly sprouted oil on the very day his sweetheart has wed somebody else. He takes a $50,000 down payment on a fortune and goes to New York to see Grant's Tomb, getting himself interviewed by a sidewalk broadcaster and finding himself presently the featured star of a radio program which offers lucky lady listeners who draw the right numbers out of a hat an evening in his millionaire company. Cass Daley, the first lucky lady, Virginia Welles, the sidewalk broadcaster, and Virginia Field, a designing dame with a drawl, complicate matters for the young man in decidedly comic manner from there on to the point when, after it is learned his oil well has gone dry, he learns it is Miss Welles who loves him for himself alone, etc.

The Spike Jones aggregation are hysterically potent in their several outbursts of musical madness, and Miss Daley takes over several times for her own type of song number. Bracken and Miss Welles also let go vocally, and although the music is familiar for the most part, it is most divertingly handled. The production is by Daniel Dare, the direction by William D. Russell, and five writers share the writing credits: Edmund Beloin, Jack Rose and Lewis Meltzer for the screenplay, and William Bowers and Robinson Holbert for the story.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

$1,500,000 Ad Budget For 3 Bogeaus Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Benedict E. Bogeaus, independent producer releasing through United Artists, has established a budget of $1,500,000 for national advertising on three of the pictures he will make during 1947.

Bogeaus' 1947 schedule thus far calls for five pictures. They will be: "The Macomber Affair," "A Miracle Can Happen," "Christmas Eve," "Jonathan Loves 'Em All" and "The Affair of the Diamond Necklace."

Equip German Houses

FRANKFURT, Germany, Jan. 6.—The motion picture section of Army Theatre Special Services has installed 35mm equipment in six houses in the European Theatre.

Kalisch Resigns from State Department

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. — Bertram Kalisch, film aide of the U. S. State Department, has resigned to join the William J. Ganz Co. and the Institute of Visual Training, producers and distributors of theatrical, educational and industrial shorts. Kalisch, who helped organize the AAF training film program at Wright Field, was chief of the adaptation section of the State Department's film division.

Seven More Pictures Approved by Legion

The National Legion of Decency has given its A-I classification to seven additional films. They are: "Blondie's Big Moment," Columbia; "Ginger," "Mr. Hex," "Silver Range" and "The Trap," all Monogram; "The Overlanders," Eagle-Lion—Universal, and "Stagecoach to Denver," Republic.

Salley Heads Colosseum

ATLANTA, Jan. 6. — New Officers named by Atlanta lodge of the Colosseum of Motion Picture Salesmen of America include: Frank Salley, RKO, Radio president; Ben Butler, M-G-M, vice-president; E. D. Foster, Republic, financial secretary; Clarence Deever, M-G-M, treasurer; George Jones, Republic, recording secretary; Frank Salley, also serves as treasurer of the national organization.

Gordon E. Riley

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Gordon E. Riley, of Camden, general traffic manager of the Radio Corp. of America and former traffic manager for the United States Gypsum Co., died here yesterday at the age of 48. Riley leaves a widow, Zelda, and a daughter, Jean.

Reade Acquires 16 Storrs' Theatres

With the acquisition of 16 theatres in Upstate New York and New Jersey, in a deal representing about $4,500,000, the Walter Reade Circuit has given momentum to an expansion project. The deal was consummated with the Frank V. Storrs Estate executors and the Chase National Bank. At the same time, it was disclosed Walter Reade Theatres, a new corporation, has been organized to handle the new acquisitions and to build and acquire other show cases throughout the country.

Reade, who has operated the newly-acquired houses for the past 20 years, under a lease from the Storrs estate, obtained a $4,000,000 loan from the First National Bank of Boston for the purchase and modernization of the circuit.

The acquisitions are: Community and Congress Theaters, Saratoga Springs; Kingston and Broadway, Kingston; Warren and Community, Hudson; Strand, Oxford and Paramount, Plainfield; Majestic and Strand, Perth Amboy; Strand, Freehold; Carlton and Strand, Red Bank; Community, Morristown, and Community, Toms River.

Prince Named RKO Foreign Press Chief

Don Prince has been named RKO Radio foreign publicity manager, replacing Mike Hoffay, resigned.

Prince has been with RKO for 10 years, having risen from the ranks of Terry Turner's field forces under S. Barret McCormick, advertising-publicity director. During the past year he has been in the United Kingdom organizing an exploitation department for RKO in that territory as part of a world-wide showmanship plan.

Two Theatres Razed By Sweeping Fires

Two costly theatre fires in widely-separated parts of the U. S. have been reported:

The Union Hall in the town of DeRuyter, near Albany, N. Y., burned down; it was exhibitor W. J. Naber's only house. In Broadus, Mont., the Star was also destroyed by flames. Owner Carl Shaffer has estimated the loss to be more than $75,000.

Dutch See U. S. Films

The first United States films imported into The Netherlands under the recent arrangement with the United States Motion Picture Export Association, "Mrs. 'Miniver" and "Gaslight," were shown throughout the country over the week end. They were received enthusiastically by press and public, according to a dispatch from The Hague to the New York Times.

Leyendecker to Boxoffice

Frank S. Leyendecker, for the past several years New York staff representative for *Film Bulletin*, has joined the staff of *Boxoffice* as an assistant to editor James M. Jerauld. Leyendecker, who was editor of *Film Curb* in 1938, had previously been Eastern editor of *Boxoffice*.

SERVING the world of THE MOTION PICTURE

MOTION PICTURE HERALD, weekly, intensively American but of international circulation, preponderantly circulated to exhibitors but also covering and serving all other ramifications of the industry.

BETTER THEATRES, every fourth week, currently appearing as a section of The Herald, but in effect and fact a special publication in the service of the physical theatre, devoted to its equipment and operation.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, five days a week, Monday through Friday, most holidays out, widely circulated principally in the U. S., also covering all branches of the industry but with the accent on distribution and exhibition interests.

International

MOTION PICTURE ALMANAC, statistical annual, of more than a thousand pages, covering all branches, and containing biographical information on about twelve thousand persons in the art and industry around the world.

FAME, statistical annual of large format and ornate make-up devoted to the talent of the art, around the world, and with a section devoted to Radio and its people.

ROCKEFELLER CENTER
NEW YORK

Answering inquiries concerning the

SELZNICK RELEASING ORGANIZATION

Facilities will be available for only a limited number of pictures other than those produced by the Selznick producing units; and only for product of outstanding quality and great commercial appeal.

This basic policy will make it impossible for us to consider any but a few of those propositions with which we have been deluged since the formation of our organization.

We nevertheless appreciate and shall not soon forget either the enthusiastic confidence in our plans on the part of so many individuals and organizations, nor the attitudes toward us throughout the industry.

We are proud of the "Tradition of Quality" of the Selznick trademark. We believe that its scrupulous and undeviating refusal to "water the milk" is unparalleled in the history of the industry. And we pledge ourselves to adopt and to adhere to the standards of the Selznick producing units.

We believe that this way, and only this way, can a new and independent distributing company make an important contribution to the business.

SELZNICK RELEASING ORGANIZATION
NEIL AGNEW, *President*

Selling and control offices have already been established in

LOS ANGELES NEW YORK LONDON BUENOS AIRES
CHICAGO DALLAS BOSTON ATLANTA

IN A TRADITION SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL OF QUALITY

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61 NO. 5 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1947 TEN CENTS

MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA,
28 WEST 44TH ST., 21ST FL.
NEW YORK 18,
N. Y. (2 COPIES)

Further Court Action Here Is Considered

Companies May Move for Some Decree Changes

The possibility that certain defendant companies might return to the New York Federal Court in attempts to have adjustments made in and further clarifications given of some provisions of the industry decree presented itself yesterday as the deadline for any such action drew near.

The move, which is under consideration by a majority of film attorneys, would be in the form of a motion requesting amended findings and, accordingly, amended judgments. Such a move would have to be made to the three-judge statutory court by Friday.

In the event that any of the compa-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Film Stock Shares Rise 63% in Year

Stock splits effected by several companies during 1946, as well as the conversion of preferred to common stock by several others, resulted in a 63 per cent increase in the number of shares outstanding at the end of the year, a survey of home office financial departments reveals. As of last Dec. 28, the total outstanding, for nine companies represented on the New York Stock Exchange, was approximately 31,735,000 shares, com-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Eagle-Lion Becomes CRI Stockholder

Eagle-Lion Films has joined Confidential Reports, Inc., as a stockholder, it was announced here yesterday by A. W. Schalberg, E-L vice president and general sales manager.

With its election as a member Eagle-Lion becomes the ninth subscriber - stockholder of CRI, the others being Warners, Republic, United Artists, Columbia, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, RKO Radio and Universal.

Independents' Product Held To Be Exempt

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7. — Independent producers, being non-defendants in the industry anti-trust suit, are exempt from the provisions of the final decree handed down in New York last week, and defendant distributors may properly approach the court for reassurance of exemption so far as the films they handle for independents are concerned, Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, has been advised by SIMPP counsel in the East. Nelson was scheduled to hold a full-scale meeting of his organization's membership today, preumably to consider this legal opinion and possible steps designed to implement it.

The independents, the opinion holds, along with Monogram, Republic and PRC, are free "to provide or contract for exhibition of their own films on such terms, including provision for the maintenance of minimum admission prices, as they may individually

(*Continued on page 6*)

Fielding, Bowen to Regents on 'Outlaw'

New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding and Dr. Ward C. Bowen, acting director of the motion picture (censorship) division of the State Education Board, will personally appear before the top State Board of Regents in Albany tomorrow to voice their respective stands on the former's appeal from the censors' rejection of the city's recent attempts to have the license of "The Outlaw"

(*Continued on page 6*)

New Incentive Set For 'Dimes' Drive

A large number of prizes will be offered to theatre managers who participate in the 1947 March of Dimes drive, according to an announcement made here yesterday by Emil C. Jensen, director of the motion picture division of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Details of the contests will be included in a broadside for exhibitors, now being prepared by Charles Reed Jones, national publicity manager of the film division.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Gov't-Film Program Approved by MPTOA

New Haven, Jan. 7.—The Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America has approved the establishment of industry machinery to facilitate the handling of Government films, according to Herman M. Levy, general counsel of the organization.

It is understood that Levy will represent the MPTOA on the 12-man industry coordinating committee.

10 More SRO Sales Units

Appointment of two new division managers and completion of plans for the establishment of sales offices in 10 more key cities, in addition to the 10 listed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 30, highlighted the first sales meeting of the Selznick Releasing Organization held here. The new appointees are: E. J. Fontaine, formerly with Paramount in Washington, named Mid-Atlantic division manager, and Alfred J. Del Cambre, formerly

(*Continued on page 6*)

Depinet Hits Talk Of a 'Recession'

"Theatre grosses have unlimited ceilings, so with skillful showmanship we will have opportunities for repeated new highs," Ned E. Depinet, vice-chairman of the board of RKO, asserts in an attack against "talk afield of a possible business recession."

Depinet does not agree with prophesies of a "business recession." Fortunately, he said, "business doesn't operate automatically. Human effort

(*Continued on page 6*)

Va. MPTA Selects Convention Heads

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association's executives, meeting at the Variety Club headquarters, have selected convention officers and committees for the organization's mid-winter convention, to be at the Shoreham Hotel, here, on Feb. 2-3.

Those who will head up the various general phases of the convention are:

(*Continued on page 4*)

MPTOA Plans M.P. Forum Start Jan. 20

Will Ask Trade Leaders To Aid in Organizing

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—First moves toward the organization of a Motion Picture Forum to hear and to adjust trade practice and other internal industry differences will be undertaken by MPTOA officers here this month, Fred Wehrenberg, author of the Forum idea and MPTOA president, said today.

Fred Wehrenberg

Wehrenberg said that he would meet with Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, and possibly other MPTOA officers following a meeting on Jan. 20

(*Continued on page 6*)

Foundation By-laws Have Been Drafted

The certificate of incorporation and the by-laws for the Motion Picture Foundation have been drafted into working form and have received the approval of the MPF sub-committee which was organized to carry on this function at the original meeting of the Foundation in New Orleans last Dec. 3.

Drafts of the articles have been forwarded to the MPF's steering

(*Continued on page 6*)

Television Code Is Urged by TBA Chief

"Immediate action to assume honestly and sincerely" the responsibility which television must shoulder by way of a code, or guide, which every broadcaster should pledge to fulfill was proposed at the annual meeting of the Television Broadcasters Association, held here yesterday at the

(*Continued on page 4*)

'On Wheels' Trip Ends for 'Swell Guy'

CINCINNATI, Jan. 7.—R. J. Bowman, president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, and Arthur S. Genet, vice-president in charge of C. and O. traffic, headed a delegation aboard the *George Washington* special which arrived here at 9:30 this morning with a large group of news and trade paper writers from Eastern and Southern cities, and Universal home office representatives, who last night witnessed the first "on-wheels" premiere of a motion picture, seeing Universal's "Swell Guy." A Universal-C. and O. banquet for guests and press, was given here tonight.

Ann Blyth, star of the film, made a guest appearance at a public preview tonight at Universal's Keith Theatre. She was also guest star at several local radio stations. The railroad, participating further in the promotion, used five-column-by-12-inch display advertisements in 70 newspapers along the route of the train, from Washington to this city, announcing the "Chessie Theatre on Wheels."

Lewis Leaves 20th, Joins Greenthal

Roger Lewis has relinquished his post with the home office advertising department of 20th Century-Fox, to become chief of the Monroe Greenthal advertising agency copy department. He will also act as account executive for the Greenthal company.

A lieutenant in the infantry at the time he left service three years ago to join 20th-Fox, Lewis is the retiring president of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109, and was first chairman of the motion picture chapter of the American Veterans Committee. He was also with Warner Brothers for two years in exploitation.

Levinson and Finney Form Coast Company

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Mike J. Levinson and Edward Finney have formed a new company, Levinson-Finney Enterprises, Inc., to release a series of foreign films, including five in color. These are now being processed for release on the American market early in 1947, the first being "Baron Munchausen," based on the fable, with English dubbed dialogue.

Levinson will leave for New York in the next 10 days with some of the finished product to arrange premieres in key cities.

Solomon to Handle Warners Account

Philip Solomon has been appointed advertising account executive for Warner Brothers Pictures at the Blaine-Thompson Advertising Co., succeeding Walter Blake, who is joining McCann-Erickson in Los Angeles.

Solomon has been with Blaine-Thompson for some 17 years and lately has had charge of New York theatre advertising accounts, in addition to assisting Blake on national film advertising.

Personal Mention

CHARLES D. PRUTZMAN, Universal vice-president and general counsel, has cancelled plans to join other "U" executives in a trip to the Coast studios tomorrow.

•

MOREY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram national sales manager, will be in Scranton today, New York tomorrow and St. Louis Friday.

•

JOHN JENKINS, president of Astor Pictures, Dallas, is in Atlanta visiting William Richardson, also of Astor.

•

CAROL WELD, on the RKO publicity staff in Atlanta for three years, has been transferred to the New Orleans office.

•

BILLY TALLEY, former Republic branch manager in Atlanta and now with the Stillman Circuit in Tennessee, has returned there from Florida.

•

JOE C. GOLTZ, special foreign representative for United Artists, has returned to New York from the Far East.

•

LOREN RYDER, head of the Paramount studio sound department, is due in New York Jan. 22 from the Coast.

•

ROBERT S. BENJAMIN, president of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, will leave New York today for Cleveland, Chicago and Hollywood.

•

HOWARD DE WIESE, Republic sales representative at Salt Lake City, has been visiting Denver.

•

CARL LIND, Montana exhibitor, is visiting Salt Lake City exchange managers and bookers.

•

TOM PHILIBIN of Republic, Salt Lake City, has returned there from Youngstown.

•

DAVID A. LIPTON, Universal coordinator of advertising, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

DUDLEY NICHOLS, RKO-Radio producer-director, is in New York from the Coast.

•

SOL SCHWARTZ, vice-president of RKO Theatres, has returned to New York from Miami.

•

PAT CASEY, producers' labor representative, is scheduled to leave for the Coast in a week.

•

CARY GRANT is in New York from Hollywood for talks with SAMUEL GOLDWYN.

•

GEORGE RAFTERY is expected to return to New York from Kentucky today or tomorrow.

•

EUGENE ZUKOR, Paramount studio talent executive, is in New York from Hollywood with MRS. ZUKOR.

•

FRED MESSENGER, Monogram casting director, has left Hollywood for Shreveport, La.

JAMES GRAINGER, Republic executive vice-president and general sales manager, has returned to New York from Mexico City and Hollywood.

•

INGRID BERGMAN has been awarded Sweden's highest order for artists and scientists, a gold medal for outstanding services to art and science, by KING GUSTAF.

•

SUE BRUST (MRS. BERTRAM F. BRUMMER) assistant to Russell Holman, Paramount's Eastern production head, will leave the company Friday to take up domestic life.

•

MAX FELLERMAN, of Paramount's theatre department, and his wife will leave New York tomorrow for a vacation on the Coast.

•

EARLE SWEIGERT, Paramount's Mid-eastern division sales manager, has returned to Philadelphia from North Wales, Pa.

•

HAL JORDAN, formerly Tennessee sales representative for Southern Monogram is now at his new post as branch manager in Charlotte.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner's Western division sales manager, has left New York for a tour of Midwest exchanges.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, is scheduled to return to New York from Hollywood at the end of this week.

•

JOCK LAWRENCE of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, will return to his desk here today after a holiday in Cuba.

•

CHARLES J. FELDMAN, Universal Western division sales manager, has left New York for Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Detroit.

•

JEAN BENOIT-LEVY, director of the film division of the United Nations' department of public information, has returned here from Europe.

•

CURTIS MITCHELL, Paramount advertising-publicity director, will return to New York from Chicago tomorrow.

•

AL ZIMBALIST, national advertising head of Film Classics, is back in New York from Washington.

•

FRED ASTAIRE and his wife will return to New York shortly from the South, where they spent the holidays.

•

CHARLES KARR, head of Martin Theatres' booking department, is back in Atlanta from a trip to Dallas.

•

EILEEN MCDONALD, secretary to RALPH MCCOY, of Eagle-Lion, is in Birmingham on a pleasure trip from Atlanta.

•

SAM SIRITZKY of Siritzky International, will leave New York for Paris next week.

•

SAM BOVERMAN of the Paramount home office legal staff is in Louisville.

Newsreel Parade

CONGRESS' opening and the New Year's Day football bowl games—Rose, Sugar, Orange and Cotton—claim virtually all the footage in current newsreels; complete synopses follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 38—President Truman addresses the new Congress. Three storms in East cause air crashes. It's all weather: sunshine and snowstorm. Bowl football highlights.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 236—Truman addresses the GOP Congress. Grid bowl thrillers.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 39—80th Congress tackles first problems: Bilbo and the President's speech. 1947 bowl games.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 41—Congress opens, Truman talks. 1947 bowl games.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 2—80th Congress convenes. Bowl games.

73 At Testimonial For Alec Sayles

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 7.—Some 73 of the film industry in this territory last night paid tribute to Alec Sayles, Palace manager, for his 25 years in show business, at a dinner at the Towne House, under Variety Club auspices last night. Saul Ullman, Upstate manager for Fabian, presented a signed scroll. C. J. Latta, second assistant chief national barker, Frank McCue, *Knickerbocker News* promotion manager, and Neil Hellman, local chief barker, spoke.

Segregation in DC Houses Hit by Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Rep. William L. Dawson (R.-Ill.) today introduced legislation in the House which would force theatres in the District of Columbia to open their doors to all colors and creeds. Dawson, a Negro, wrote into his measure fines of from $10 to $100 and jail sentences from one to 100 days for violations. The bill also provides that the violator would be liable to personal damage payment of from $100 to $500 to the person involved.

Jackson Quits Post At Anglo-American

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Louis H. Jackson has resigned as chairman and governing director of Anglo-American Film Co., thereby implementing an agreement whereby Associated British Pictures Corp. will run Anglo-American pending development of the government's intentions with regard to possible quota revision.

Curtis Bernhardt Due

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Warner director Curtis Bernhardt will leave that company this month. Entraining tomorrow for New York, he will announce his new connection on arriving there late in the week. Bernhardt had been set to direct "The Life of Sarah Bernhardt."

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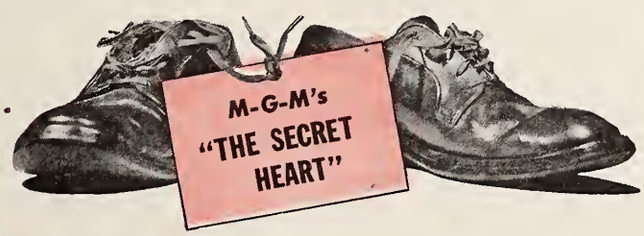
YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THESE SHOES!

Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman, Claude Jarman, Jr.

Now the industry knows what we have long predicted! M-G-M's Prize Picture is shattering *all* records in its Road-show World Premiere at the Carthay Circle, Los Angeles. The critics are ecstatic! For instance. Says Louella Parsons: "One of the finest screen dramas to come into our lives, one of Hollywood's all-time great!" And the L. A. Herald Express predicts "Everyone connected with it becomes a prime contender for Hollywood's top honors, the Academy Awards." And columnist Dorothy Kilgallen says: "Our own Academy Award—Best Motion Picture of the Year, 'The Yearling'."



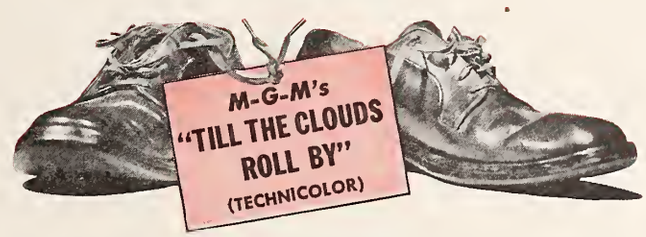
Claudette Colbert, Walter Pidgeon, June Allyson

EXTRA! BREAKS ALL-TIME CAPITOL RECORD!

Listen! "The Secret Heart" has broken the 27-year Capitol, N. Y. record for a week's business! The Los Angeles opening broke all-time records. And in its first 30 engagements it takes its place with M-G-M's top money-getters! It's a "heart" of gold!

Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone

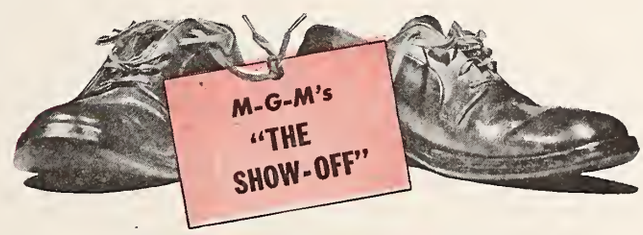
Mickey's back! Get ready to continue the Hardy Hit Habit with the newest and best of them all!



Van Johnson, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, June Allyson, Robert Walker, Kathryn Grayson, Van Heflin, Dinah Shore, Lucille Bremer, Lena Horne, Angela Lansbury, Tony Martin, Virginia O'Brien

EXTRA! BREAKS MUSIC HALL RECORDS!

Have you heard the news! "Till The Clouds Roll By" in its first 4 weeks at Radio City Music Hall has not only set an all-time record for that famed house but has rolled up the biggest week's gross ever reached by any theatre at any time anywhere on earth! In first 40 dates it's one of the Biggest M-G-M Grossers!



Red Skelton, Marilyn Maxwell

"Show-off" is off to a flying start! It's showing off to fine business in its first 45 dates. A rollicking audience hit for your folks!

Robert Montgomery, Audrey Totter, Lloyd Nolan

The most unusual offering since talkies began. A new technique to tell a thrilling mystery drama! Collier's calls it revolutionary! Sensational advance publicity everywhere! Watch the magazines!

Television Code

(*Continued from page* 1)

Waldorf-Astoria Hotel by J. R. Poppele, who was reelected president of the organization.

The proposal, as Poppele set forth in his annual report, would be to avoid missing "an opportunity to supply good clean information and entertainment."

Scroll to de Forest

At a luncheon session, an inscribed scroll commemorating the 40th anniversary of the invention of the "Audion" three-element vacuum tube was presented to its inventor, Dr. Lee de Forest. In accepting the honor from TBA, Dr. de Forest said: This year, 1947, is certain to convince every skeptic, every scoffer, that television has arrived from around that fabled corner, and is here to command, to entertain, instruct and enthrall."

Other officers elected at the meeting are: G. Emerson Markham, general manager of WRGB, Schenectady, vice-president; Will Baltin, reelected secretary-treasurer; Paul Raibourn, vice-president of Paramount, reelected assistant secretary-treasurer and director. Other directors named were John F. Royal, vice-president in charge of television for National Broadcasting, to succeed O. V. Hanson, and Frank Schreiber, general manager of WGN, Chicago, replacing E. A. Hayes of the Hughes Tool Co.

Appeal Dismissal of Scophony Television

The Department of Justice yesterday appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's dismissal of Scophony, Ltd., British defendant, in the Scophony anti-trust suit.

In a petition filed by Joseph B. Marker, chief of the New York office of the D. of J.'s anti-trust division, the Government contends that Federal Judge Edward A. Conger erred on Nov. 8 when he held that the British company does not come under section No. 12 of the Clayton Act, which provides that a firm may be sued only in an area where it does business. The appeal claims that Scophony, Ltd., does business in New York through Scophony Corp. of America, which has been retained as a defendant in the suit. Judge Conger had ruled that the last business done here by Scophony, Ltd., was in 1942.

Meanwhile, Scophony's motion for dismissal of cross-claims brought against it by Scophony Corp. of America and Arthur H. Levy, SCA president, has been set back for a hearing until Jan. 14, after having been scheduled to come up yesterday.

Monogram Managers' Meet, Jan. 11-12

St. Louis, Jan. 7.—Steve Broidy, president of Monogram Pictures, is scheduled to head a home office delegation to the meeting of all Monogram franchise holders and branch managers, to be held at the Coronado Hotel, here, on Jan. 11-12.

One of the features of the conclave will be the showing of Roy Del Ruth's "It Happened on Fifth Avenue." There will also be discussions of the 1946-47 sales plans. Others expected include vice-president M. Edward Morey, general sales manager Maurice Goldstein, and director of sales Jack Schlaifer.

Golden Named Chief Of Capital Variety

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Nathan D. Golden, head of the motion picture section of the U. S. Department of Commerce, was elevated to chief barker of the Washington Variety Club at an election held at the Willard Hotel, here, yesterday. He replaces J. E. Fontaine.

The election was followed by an inaugural luncheon held at the Willard. Other newly-elected officers are: Frank Boucher, first assistant chief barker; Frank La Falce, second assistant; Sam Galanty, treasurer; Jake Flax, secretary; Alvin Newmyer, counsel; Carter Barron, chairman of the executive committee. Sam Wheeler, Film Classics executive, served as chairman of the committee for the event.

Vanguard Seeking Plays to Finance

Vanguard Films, the David O. Selznick production company, in an attempt to stimulate writers and to secure film story material, is "very anxious" to participate in financing theatrical ventures, Robert Ross, Eastern production representative, discloses. Focus of the company's search, which has already begun, Ross added, centers on pre-production play deals or financing stage producers.

Long an advocate of venturing into the legitimate theatre field in order to bolster material for the screen, Ross, who was himself a theatrical director for about 11 years before joining Vanguard one year ago, reports that Daniel T. O'Shea, Vanguard President, likewise is "enthusiastic" about the project.

Va. MPTA

(*Continued from page* 1)

Chairmen: Sam Roth of Valley Enterprizes, Washington; Wade Pearson, Neighborhood Theatres, Arlington, and Harold Wood, Neighborhood Theatres, Richmond.

The committee chairmen are: Attendance, Charles Grimes, Warner Bros. Theatres, Staunton; registration and arrangements: Frank M. Boucher of K. and B. Theatres, Washington; entertainment: A. Julian Brylawski, Warner Theatres, Washington; Carter T. Barron, Loew's Theatres, Washington; ladies: Mrs. Frank M. Boucher, Washington.

Also, publicity: Brock Whitlock, Loew's Washington Theatres; gift committee: Sen. Ben T. Pitts, Pitts Theatres, Fredericksburg; distinguished guests: Tom Baldridge, M-G-M, Winchester, Va. Chairman Sam Roth stated that an adequate budget had been set up and that no effort would be spared to make the VMPA's 1947 Midwinter Convention an outstanding business and social occasion.

Foundation By-laws

(*Continued from page* 1)

committee, which consists of Barney Balaban, chairman; Fred Wehrenberg, R. H. Poole, Si Fabian, Leonard Goldenson, Tom Connors, Ted Gamble, Chic Lewis, Sam Pinanski, Ed Zorn, Karl Hoblitzelle, E. V. Richards, Jr. As soon as approval is received from the group, the articles will immediately be filed for incorporation in the District of Columbia.

The initial purpose of the Foundation will be to aid the sick and needy in all branches of the industry.

Death Claims Mother Of Chester Friedman

Mrs. Lottie Friedman, 69, mother of Chester Friedman, editor of the Managers' Round Table of the *Motion Picture Herald*, died suddenly last night from a heart attack. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Park West Chapel.

Eddie Morrison, 40

Funeral services will be conducted Friday morning at Schlems Funeral Parlor, Union City, N. J., for Eddie Morrison, 40, veteran newsreel cameraman despite his age. He started with the old International Newsreel, then covered for Movietone and last served Paramount News. He had been ill for several years.

Alan Crockett, 30

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Alan Crockett, 30, Western film actor and radio singer, died at his suburban Maywood home today. Crockett had broadcast over station WLS, here, and KNX, Hollywood, for many years.

'Man's Hope' Openings

Andre Malraux's "Man's Hope," which is being released in the U. S. by Lopert Films, will have its American premiere simultaneously at the 55th Street Playhouse and the 5th Avenue Playhouse, I. E. Lopert, president, announces. The film will follow the films currently showing at each house, he said.

Film Stocks

(*Continued from page* 1)

pared with 19,230,790 at the end of 1945.

Total valuation of the stocks, based on these newly-available figures and the closing market quotations on Dec. 28, reached an all-time high of approximately $1,309,581,000 at the end of 1946, a rise of some $95,227,000 over a total of around $1,214,3[illegible],000 at the end of 1945.

Greatest gain was made by Loew's, Inc., which, after a three-for-one stock split, ended this past year with approximately 5,100,000 shares outstanding, for a total valuation of $132,600,000, a rise of $74,587,000.

Paramount, after a two-for-one split, had some 7,504,000 shares, valued in the neighborhood of $246,702,942, representing an increase of about $38,467,000.

The Warner Bros. stock, also split two-for-one, aggregated approximately 7,402,000 shares at the end of 1946, when the valuation stood near the $132,311,000 mark, up some $7,861,000 from the end of 1945.

RKO, with its outstanding stock increased by about a million shares during the year, had a total valuation of approximately $50,156,000 on Dec. 28, an increase of $1,306,250.

The common stock of 20th Century-Fox, increased to 2,753,000 shares outstanding, through the conversion of preferred, totaled about $103,646,000 in value at the end of the year. While the total value of 20th-Fox common increased some $18,208,000 during the year, the total value of the preferred was decreased by $19,806,000 and of the prior preferred by $650,000, making a net drop of around $2,248,000 for the three classes of the company's securities.

Universal's stocks had a net drop of approximately $9,218,000. Total valuation of approximately 830,000 shares of common outstanding at the end of 1946 was $21,410,000, a decrease of $14,338,000, which was offset in part by the issuance of 60,000 shares of preferred, valued at $5,160,000 as of Dec. 28.

Columbia's net decrease was in the neighborhood of $565,000. Some 370,000 shares of common stock outstanding at the end of 1946 had a total value of about $7,770,000, a drop of $2,590,000, while the value of 75,000 shares of preferred stood at some $6,000,000, an increase of $2,025,000.

General Precision Equipment Corp. ended 1946 with 590,000 shares outstanding, with a valuation of approximately $14,012,000, a decrease of some $6,122,000 during the year.

Eastman Kodak's 2,500,000 shares of common outstanding on Dec. 28 were valued at $557,500,000, a decrease of $8,750,000. The company's 62,000 shares of preferred had a valuation of $11,842,000, a decrease of $93,000.

Mason, Korda Sign 2-Picture Contract

James Mason, British film star, now in this country vacationing in Connecticut, has signed a two-picture contract with Alexander Korda. The deal specifies that Mason's two films are to be made in the country most convenient to both the star and producer. The first film may be made, therefore, either in Hollywood, London, or possibly in France. A reputed contract between Mason and David Rose has been the cause of controversy.

You'll attract more customers... with HIGH INTENSITY PROJECTION!

Managers of small theatres find that Simplified High Intensity Projection actually attracts more customers to their shows. The reason?

Because this inexpensive form of high intensity projection gives the movie-goer more for his money. It provides a brighter screen, a sharper image. It makes available to the small theatre the same perfection of modeling and detail... the same fidelity of color reproduction... found in the larger theatres. This means more audience relaxation and enjoyment... which means bigger box office.

In spite of the obvious improvement that Simplified High Intensity Projection can make on your screen, it is actually low in cost. In fact, just a few extra admissions per show will more than pay for it.

Take the first step today toward attracting more and more customers... Consult your supply house on the availability of High Intensity Lamps.

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***Division Sales Offices:* Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco**

M.P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

of MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois in this city, at which time an initial start toward organization of the Forum will be made.

Invitations to assist in the formation of the Forum will be addressed at that time to heads of all exhibitors' organizations, the heads and sales managers of distribution companies and to Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president.

Last fall Johnston indicated his willingness to serve with the Forum if invited to do so. His expression was made after Wehrenberg, in proposing the organization of the Forum at the open session of the Conference of Independent Exhibitors Associations in Boston, had suggested that it should be headed by Johnston. The suggestion itself apparently stemmed from a speech which Johnston made at an Allied States dinner in Chicago earlier in which he urged settlement of industry differences around the table rather than in the courts.

In announcing his decision to proceed with organizing plans for the Forum, Wehrenberg said: "The function of the Forum will be simply to iron out all differences around a table and cut down the number of trips to the courthouse."

Wehrenberg added that since the idea of a Forum had originated with MPTOA, it is the responsibility of that organization to endeavor to get it started. Whatever happens later, he inferred, will depend upon the amount and sincerity of the cooperation that is given to the plan which, it is believed, can be of even greater value to the industry than at first imagined, due to the termination of industry arbitration under the recent New York court decree.

Wehrenberg is expected to submit his resignation as president of the MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois at a meeting of the organization in the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Jan. 20, as he wants to devote all of his time to the national organization.

Depinet Hits Talk

(*Continued from page* 1)

plays the major role. It wasn't just the generally good conditions that built up last year's record. Good conditions helped just as poor conditions would hinder. But good or bad, the determining factor rests with us."

The saturation point in distribution has not been reached, Depinet holds. "Many new customers will be added, countless new theatres are already under construction and many more will be built with the easing of governmental restrictions," he predicted. Depinet, cited the advances made by RKO and RKO Radio during 1946 in production, advertising, 16mm. distribution, and in foreign markets.

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ART SERVICE
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Film Advertising Bows as Art at 20th-Fox Exhibit

By CHARLES L. FRANKE

The industry revealed itself as an "art patron" yesterday, as the facilities of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art here were placed at the disposal of 20th Century-Fox for a display of nine original canvases. Some 200 devotees of art and industry representatives were on hand to examine the paintings which had been specifically commissioned by the company for use in advertising campaigns. It marked the first time in the history of the Museum, 20th-Fox reports, that that institution has held such a display.

The paintings included four executed for "The Late George Apley" by John Falter, Dean Cornwell, Robert Benney and Douglas Crockwell; two portraits, one of Jennifer Jones in "The Song of Bernadette" and one of Tyrone Power and the cast of "The Razor's Edge," painted by Norman Rockwell; one painting of Gregory Peck in his role in "The Keys of the Kingdom," by Ben Stahl; a portrait of Jeanne Crain by Roy Spreter as she appeared in "Home In Indiana," and Marcel Vertes painting of Tallulah Bankhead and William Eythe in a "A Royal Scandal." All the actors and actresses had posed for long hours while the paintings were being executed and several of them, it is said, have sought in vain to purchase one or more of the paintings.

As Mrs. Wendell Willkie, 20th-Fox vice-president Tom Connors, advertising director Charles Schlaifer and others filed before the paintings during the exhibit, the cameras of Fox Movietone News recorded the event for one of its forthcoming reels, and transcriptions were being cut for broadcast today over the facilities of stations WCBS, WLIB and WINS.

Two of the artists, Cornwell and Benney, were present. Others attending included William Kupper, Jules Fields, George Generalis and others from 20th-Fox; art patrons Mrs. R. C. Wilson, Mrs. Roger Hall, Mrs. Wylie Brown and Mrs. Eustice Seligman; John Phillips, director of publicity, and Joseph Downs, curator of the American Wing of the Museum, representatives of the trade press, and fan magazine writers.

The exhibit was arranged by H. V. Jayne, vice-director of the Museum, and Schlaifer. It was presented as "Art In Motion Picture Advertising," and was designed to focus attention on the high standards of art currently used in motion picture advertising.

Independent Product

(*Continued from page* 1)

establish. This includes the freedom to exhibit their own films in any theatre which they may own or lease on terms agreeable to themselves. It includes the freedom to license their own films for exhibition in theatres owned by any of the defendants, and here the independents may, if they choose, disregard competitive bidding and insist upon minimum admission prices, clearance, etc., not necessarily in conformance with the rules laid down for the defendants as licensors."

SIMPP's Request

SIMPP, appearing as *amicus curiae* in the anti-trust suit, asked to have assurances of these freedoms written into the final decree. Counsel for the group are not at all perturbed by the court's failure to do so. They take the position that the *amicus* brief was, in reality, an open invitation for the judges to use language including independent product along with that of the defendant companies in the prohibitions they have placed upon the distributors. That such language has not been incorporated is, according to the opinion, satisfactory evidence that the judges did not wish to restrict the independents.

Regarding contracts made by the defendant distributors on behalf of independents, the opinion holds that the distributors merely act as their agents and follow their instructions.

Distribution attorneys in New York yesterday uniformly expressed the opinion that defendant distribution companies would be disinclined to risk violation of the Federal court decree and contempt proceedings by assuming in accordance with the SIMPP interpretation, that the role of "agent" for an independent producer exempted them from the court's order, insofar as such product was concerned.

The opinion also was expressed that the decree is the law for the industry and that non-defendant companies which fail to comply with it will be subject to actions by the government, exhibitor customers or other interested parties.

Court Action

(*Continued from page* 1)

nies will approach the court anew on the matter, their motions would seek adjustments few in number, since all film lawyers, it is understood, unanimously share the belief that efforts to have the court consider any extensive revision of the decree would be futile.

Universal, for one, is giving thought to a motion to have eliminated that provision which declares illegal franchise deals. The company now has close to 700 such product licensing arrangements.

Meanwhile the legal staffs of all companies continued to digest the entire content of the court's decision. Junior counsel for a majority of the firms met here yesterday to exchange views.

Universal to Continue Theatre-Buying Program

Universal will continue to acquire theatres where circumstances are agreeable and this long-since announced program is not at all affected by the New York Federal court industry decree, Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, said here yesterday.

Prutzman pointed out that the company is interested only in "showcase" houses and the court did not raise any objection to this. He added that while no negotiations for new theatre properties are underway at present the company is still scouting possibilities.

SRO Sales Units

(*Continued from page* 1)

a Paramount salesman in the Dallas exchange, who will be Southwest division manager.

With policy still undetermined on whether "Duel in the Sun," David O. Selnick production and SRO's first release, would continue as a roadshow because of the application of the New York Federal Court's decree, a major portion of the meeting was devoted to discussions of sales plans for the film.

The Dec. 30 report in MOTION PICTURE DAILY named the first 10 cities selected for sales offices, as follows: New York, Dallas, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, Seattle, Kansas City, Cleveland and Boston. A dispatch received here yesterday from Dallas said that Del Cambre, in addition to setting up offices in Dallas and Atlanta, will also establish branches in Charlotte and New Orleans.

Milton Kusell, general sales manager, said, meanwhile, that he would not announce the 10 new locations and the 20 men who will represent SRO in the entire 20 territories in handling "Duel in the Sun" until the necessary office space for all 20 offices is obtained.

Attending the meeting here were: Neil F. Agnew, president of SRO; Kusell, Sam Horowitz, Chicago division manager; Thomas Duane, New England division manager; Joseph L. Roberts, Eastern publicity director, and Fontaine. Unable to attend because of scheduled openings of the first SRO release were John Howard, West Coast division manager, and Del Cambro.

Fielding, Bowen

(*Continued from page* 1)

revoked. Fielding made this disclosure here yesterday.

Eleven days ago Fielding filed his appeal, and presumably the Regents are prepared now to either reverse or sustain the stand of Bowen's group. The ruling by the censors, enunciated on Dec. 20 by Bowen, held to a narrow interpretation of the Regents Board's statute in declaring that its jurisdiction of a film on the ground of "objectionable advertising," the basis of Fielding's move, was "limited to posters, banners or other similar advertising."

Never before in the history of the State film censors, Fielding said yesterday, has a ruling of the group been challenged and brought up for Regents' action.

'Dimes' Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

Jack Alicoate has been named chairman of the committee of judges, which also includes Martin Quigley, Abel Green, Jay Emanuel, Pete Harrison, Chick Lewis, Ben Shylen, Herman Schleier and Mo Wax, of *The Film Bulletin.*

Prize rules have been worked out so that all theatres, regardless of size, have the same opportunity to win. One series of prizes will be for the theatres that produce the most dimes per seat; and a second series will be for theatres that show the largest percentage of increase over last year's collections.

British Rejoice at Films Labor Accord

LONDON, Jan. 7. — The current agreement reached between the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association and the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, affecting 150,000 workers in the British industry, "not only improves working conditions but also adds proper dignity to [illegible] people earning a living in the city," Herbert Morrison, House of Commons leader, declared at Grosvenor House here tonight at the dinner celebrating the accord.

"The agreement," Morrison said, "is a fine example of the recognition by employers and labor of their responsibility to a third, though unseen, party, the British public. It goes far outside the motion picture industry, ensuring that patrons of the country's 5,000 theatres will be satisfied that behind their pleasure is efficient management and a contented staff."

Morrison paid tribute to theatre staffs, especially to projectionists, for sticking to their posts during the wartime bombings and thanked the exhibitors for devoting considerable screen time to government messages during the war.

"Today," he added, "British filmmakers face their biggest opportunity as citizens of Britain and the world. Of all the means of expression and communication, the motion picture is the most easily understood by men of all languages and all ways of thinking. Peace can come only from understanding and tolerance between all nations, and to this end film makers have a great responsibility.

Britain vs. Hollywood

"We British," Morrison concluded, "have a great historic democracy which it will do the world good to know about. Most good Americans agree that certain of Hollywood's over-sentimentalized and overglamorized pictures have brought money to America at the expense of American prestige and reputation. Britain must avoid that pitfall. In Britain, some of the world's finest producers, actors and cameramen are backed by the traditions and living music of the English tongue. The cinema, in the right hands, can become the world's greatest civilizing influence. So let us keep its standards high. Let Britain's films circle the world. Let the best films of the rest of the world come to Britain. In so doing, the British industry will move into the front rank of the world's peace makers."

W. R. Fuller, CEA secretary, and T. J. O'Brien, NATKE secretary, were joint hosts at the dinner. Other guests included Labor Minister George Isaacs and Agriculture Minister Tom Williams, as well as numerous members of Parliament and leaders of the Trade Unions Congress.

J. Arthur Rank, representing the industry, and NATKE president Jack Smith responded to toasts by Isaacs.

Fox Shuffles Runs

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7. — Fox West Coast Theatres have swung into a new policy here. The St. Francis Theatre, formerly used as a first-run moveover house, now goes into third run, and the Paramount joins the United Nations Theatre in dual runs. This dual-run policy also prevails in Joe Blumenfeld's Market Street houses, the Tivoli and Esquire.

300 at Farewell Fete For Central's Warren

DES MOINES, Jan. 7. — Some 300 film company executives, branch managers, district managers and Central States Theatre Corp. managers, gathered at a banquet here this evening to pay tribute and bid farewell to Harry M. Warren, retiring general manager, who will move to Tucson, Ariz., tomorrow. The event included also the awarding of prizes for the recent nine-week "Warren Drive" among the Central's managers.

At the same time, A. H. Blank, head of Central States and Tri-States, announced that Myron N. Blank, his son, would assume personal direction of Central States and that E. L. Wegener would become general manager. Jerry Greenebaum, it was further announced, will succeed Wegener as district manager for the Burlington, Ia., group of theatres.

St. Louis Exhibitors Face Additional Tax

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—Mayor Aloys P. Kaufman and other St. Louis city leaders declare the city must assess new taxes in order to meet increased costs of operating the city, and top among these taxes is an amusement tax. At present a bill for a three per cent amusement tax is pending with the Board of Aldermen but observers seem to be agreed that, in view of the current attack on the validity of the city's new municipal income tax, that the amusement tax is almost certain to be approved. Theatre men have defeated one attempt for such a measure.

Ticket Tax Proposed For Columbus Runs

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 7.—An admission tax of from eight to 10 per cent for this city is envisioned as a possible way of assisting in balancing the 1947 municipal budget by Charles Egger, *Columbus Citizen* political writer, following recommendations for sweeping tax changes made by a committee of nine Columbus and Franklin County Republican officeholders.

The committee recommended the repeal of the present state three per cent admission tax and authorization to cities to enter this tax field.

License Boost Threatens

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 7.—Increases ranging from $300 to $700 in annual license fees are in store for local theatre operators, unless they can muster sufficient support at public hearings to be held soon. The general license fee boost was recommended by a special license-investigating committee named by Mayor Daniel D. Brunon at a time when means are being devised to increase municipal income without resorting to a $10 tax rate jump, which is threatening.

Philadelphia Taxes Up

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—Some $1,205,208 more in amusement taxes has been collected to date this year than in the first 11 months of 1945, according to receiver of taxes W. Frank Marshall. Important contributing factor was the raise in rate from four to 10 per cent, last July.

Wilson To Kay Exchange

MEMPHIS, Jan. 7. — Cliff Wilson, Monogram booker here, has joined Kay Film Exchange as a salesman.

U. S. Reports Film Pay But Not Taxes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Lou Costello and Bud Abbott, the Universal team, Harry Cohn, Columbia, and Deanna Durbin, also Universal, received the three highest gross-salary checks, according to a U. S. Treasury 1945 income report, issued here today, covering Columbia, United Artists and Universal.

All figures mentioned in the Government's report are for gross income and do not include Federal and state taxes paid, which considerably lessened the U. S. totals when figured on a net basis.

Abbott and Costello together earned $469,170; Cohn grossed $278,900, of which $15,900 was listed as "compensation other than salary," while the gross take for Miss Durbin was $319,987, including sources other than Universal.

Other top industry grossers in the current report were:

From Columbia: Samuel Bischoff, $75,250; Charles Boyer, $160,000; Irving Briskin, $75,291; Charles Coburn, $88,333; Irene Dunne, $124,291; Al Hall, $110,708; Rita Hayworth, $77,500; Zoltan Korda, $78,000; A. Montague, $127,083. Also: Rosalind Russell, $100,000; Abraham Schneider, $88,400; Virginia Van Upp, $118,833; Charles Vidor, $107,500; Jack Cohn, $140,650; Irene Dunne, $245,000.

Reporting from United Artists was Gradwell L. Sears with a total salary and dividend of $139,537.

Universal reported the following high grossers: N. J. Blumberg, $234,624; J. C. Cowdin, $234,624; Brian Donlevy, $93,750; Felix Jackson, $114,875; Charles Laughton, $116,666; Jack Oakie, $150,000; Merle Oberon, $170,000; Charles Prutzman, $134,000; George Sanders, $82,666; Franchot Tone, $150,000; Walter Wanger, $310,127; Clifford Work, $163,342; William A. Scully, $92,750.

Another report including additional industry personnel is expected before March.

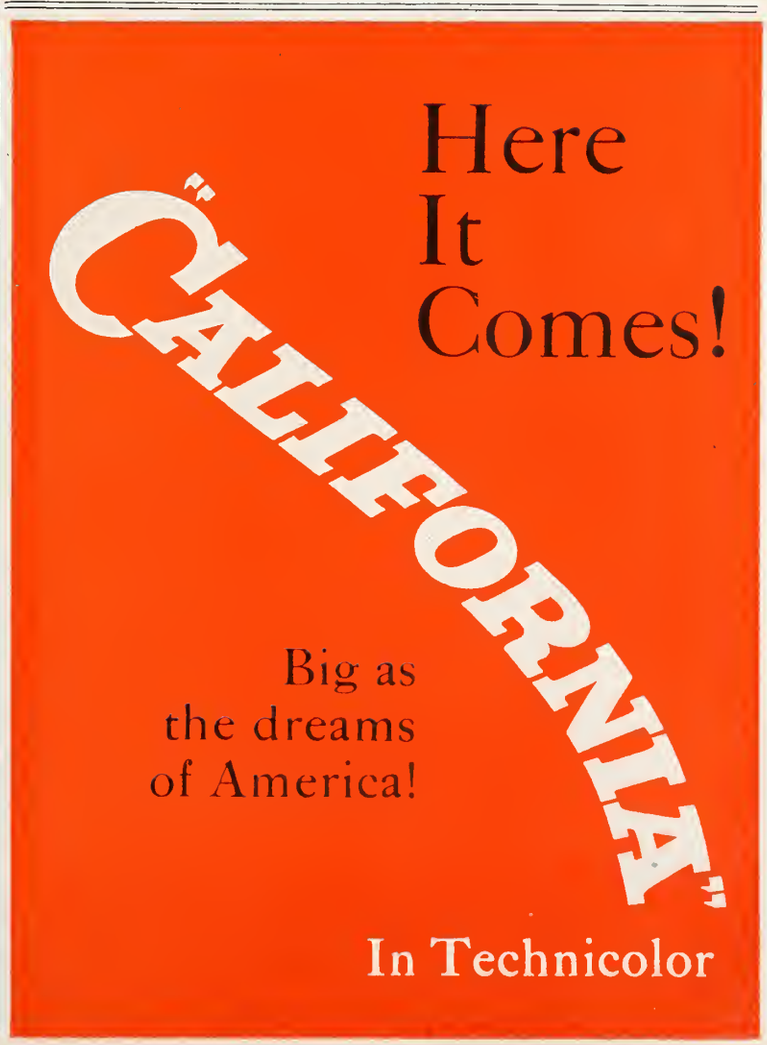
To Show 'Clouds Roll' In Memory of Kern

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7. — M-G-M's "Till the Clouds Roll By" will have a "Jerome Kern Memorial Tribute" premiere at the Egyptian Theatre, on Jan. 16, with the regular run starting the next day. The Braille Institute is sponsoring the affair and all funds raised will go to the Jerome Kern Memorial Hall there. Mayor Fletcher Bowron has indicated he will declare the week of Jan. 12-18 "Jerome Kern Week." Following the premiere, M-G-M will give a dinner with Mrs. Kern as guest of honor.

"Till the Clouds Roll By" is based on the life and music of Jerome Kern and has an all-star cast including June Allyson, Lucille Bremer, Judy Garland, Kathryn Grayson, Van Heflin, Lena Horne, Van Johnson, Tony Martin, Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra and Robert Walker.

Theatre Smoking Ban

GREAT FALLS, MONT. Jan. 7.—The city council here has passed an ordinance banning smoking in theatres. The penalities are maximum fines of $100 and 50 days in jail or both.



Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CHICAGO

Below freezing weather hurt business early in the week, but it recovered nicely. "The Razor's Edge" was a standout. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8-9:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $12,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) 2nd week. On stage: Burl Ives and Lorraine Rognan. Gross: $72,000. (Average $60,000)

HENRY V (UA)—CIVIC (900) ($1.20-$1.80-$2.40) twice daily, 3 days, 22nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average, for 7 days: $12,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $13,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c). On stage: Kathryn Grayson and Johny Johnston, 2nd week. Gross: $63,000. (Average: $45,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000)

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $51,000. (Average: $29,000)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) — UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $25,000)

BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.40) 3rd week. Gross: $44,000. (Average: $20,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

The new year has puffed up grosses, especially for "It's a Wonderful Life." Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8-10:

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and SO DARK THE NIGHT (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $14,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (Warners)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $32,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00). With vaudeville. 7 days. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $32,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LARCENY IN HER HEART (PRC)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,300. (Average: $6,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000.

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LARCENY IN HER HEART (PRC)—TIVOLI (1,616) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,200. (Average: $14,000)

STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $27,000)

BOSTON

Business picked up nicely in spite of bad weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8:

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10). Stage show: Professor Lamberti, Tommy Dix, Sibyl Bowan. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $24,000)

DECEPTION (WB) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,900)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE DARK HORSE (U)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $25,000)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox) and PERSONALITY KID (Col.)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $27,500. (Average: $25,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $36,000. (Average: $23,500)

DECEPTION (WB) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,100)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $16,900)

PITTSBURGH

With business recovering, "Blue Skies" came very near to a house record. Estimated reecipts for the week ending Jan. 9:

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $9,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $11,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Warner. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,500)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover from Harris. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,200)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $25,000)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $8,000)

CLEVELAND

New Year's Day ushered in a big comeback. "The Razor's Edge" continues to break records. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 7-8:

TWO SMART PEOPLE (M-G-M)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus New Year's Eve midnight show. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $7,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus New Year's Eve midnight show. Gross: $44,000. (Average: $23,800)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a New Year's Eve midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $11,000)

HENRY V (UA)—LOWER MALL (700) ($1.25-$2.50). Two-a-day, 7 days. Gross: $9,000.

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c and 85c for New Year's Eve midnight show) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $12,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $21,400)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNERS HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $22,600)

THE WESTERNER (Film Classics)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c and 85c for New Year's Eve midnight show) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,650)

KANSAS CITY

After suffering on Saturday from temperature that reached 10 below zero, business sprang upward with milder weather Sunday. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 7-9:

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,700. (Average: $8,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,750)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $15,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000)

GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days, with stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,000)

DENVER

"The Razor's Edge" is turning in near-record grosses at the Denver, Webber and Esquire, while "Blue Skies" is drawing heavily and is slated for a long run at the Denham. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 8:

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $11,500)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $3,500)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,500)

A SCANDAL IN PARIS (UA) and SPOOK BUSTERS (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,000)

NOBODY LIVES FOREVER (WB) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $5,300. (Average: $3,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

"The Razor's Edge," holding over at two theatres, continues to set the pace. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 9:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days on a moveover. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,600)

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $13,500)

OUT CALIFORNIA WAY (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. With vaudeville. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $3,600)

NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN (U)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $5,800)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000)

Strike Settlement Rumors Discounted

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—The strike in the Coast studios is continuing on a routine basis, with IATSE's Brewer discounting rumors of settlement in a statement which concluded: "The strike is no nearer settlement than the day it started."

Cases against CSU President Sorrell and 13 other strike leaders, indicted by the County Grand jury on criminal conspiracy counts, based on mass picketing incidents, was continued today until Jan. 29 by Superior Court Judge Thomas Ambrose. At that time the court will hear arguments to dismiss the charges.

"Duel" Opening in 3rd in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—"Duel in the Sun," already playing the Egyptian and Vogue theatres on Hollywood Blvd., will open Friday in the Fairfax, near Beverly Hills, additionally. Seats there will be reserved. SRO said the film's $44,000 first week gross in Hollywood exceeds the record of "Gone With the Wind."

Charter Coast Firm

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Jan. 7.—Incorporation papers have been issued to the Sacramento Liberty Theatre, Inc. of San Francisco, by incorporators, L. S. Hamm, B. E. Kragen and L. F. Ruttledge.

'Best Years' Grosses $67,000 at Astor

Registering a $9,000 increase over the Christmas week's record business of $58,000, "The Best Years of Our Lives" hit a new box-office high in its seventh week at the Astor Theatre here, according to the Samuel Goldwyn office. In Chicago, where the film is playing its third week at the Woods, the Goldwyn production, the report added, is far ahead of the previous week's record gross of $54,000 for that theatre.

Supported by a record sale four weeks in advance, the film at the Esquire in Boston, where it is running on a two-a-day basis, is doing "capacity business" of $16,000, it was said.

Doctor, Raye, Others Planning Fla. Studio

MIAMI, Jan. 7. — Eugene Doctor, of New York, electric sign company executive, confirms a report that he, a St. Petersburg, Fla. real estate operator and actress Martha Raye and her husband, Nick Condod, are meeting here to discuss the construction of a Florida studio.

Bureau on 'Lookout'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Field agents of the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue have been asked to be on the "lookout" for violations of the Treasury ruling against personal corporation deductions, it was learned here today.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 6 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1947 TEN CENTS

Record Slump Hit Grosses In December

But Business for Month Was Ahead of Year Ago

The film-going public's preoccupation with the recent holidays, combined with inclement weather in many sections of the country, established a record 1946 gross slump for December at approximately 170 key-city first-run U. S. theatres, according to reports from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents. Estimated weekly average per house for December was $15,885, compared with $16,963 in November.

The last two weeks each hit new lows for the year, whereas the first week of December established itself as one of the best of the year and served to spark the month sufficiently so that

(*Continued on page* 10)

1 Yearly from Story Prod.

Story Productions, recently formed independent production company headed by Hal Horne, has its sights on one elaborate production annually which would allow for maximum time to be given to preparation work and extensive efforts to establish a pre-sold audience.

The company's output in all cases

(*Continued on page* 6)

Applegate in South For J. Arthur Rank

Salem Applegate, for the past three years district manager for Universal in Philadelphia and Washington, has been named special Southern field representative for the J. Arthur Rank Division of Universal, in an area covering Atlanta, Dallas, New Orleans, Charlotte, Memphis and Oklahoma City. His headquarters will be at Atlanta; he will assume his new post immediately.

Prior to joining Universal, in 1943, Applegate was Philadelphia branch manager for M-G-M.

President's Message Hints Tax Cut Veto

Washington, Jan. 8.—President Truman, in his first annual economic report, which he made to Congress today, declared it would be unsound fiscal policy to cut wartime taxes, as has been advocated by Republican Congressional leaders.

Capital observers interpret the President's statement as an indication of a possible veto threat against a cut in taxes at this time.

Film Stocks Near 12 Months' Low

In a generally downward movement, said to have been brought about largely under pressure of some investment trust shifting of holdings, film security values again dropped slightly yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange, with Loew's, RKO and 20th Century-Fox reaching their lowest points in over a year and Warner Bros. receding to its lowest price since that company's stock split, last year.

Columbia, dropping three-eighths during the day, closed at 20⅝, compared with a low point of 20 during the past year. General Precision dropped one-quarter, to 23½, compared with 21½; Loews dropped one-quarter, to 25¼, the same as the 1946 bottom figure; Paramount, five-eighths to 29⅜, compared with 27¾; RKO, one-quarter to 14⅝, equal to the low for last year; 20th-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Langer Says Bill 'Soon'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Senator William Langer of North Dakota, said here today that he plans to introduce his theatre divorcement measure to the Senate "very soon." Recently the North Dakota lawmaker asserted that he would introduce his bill when the new Congress met.

He pointed out today that time has not permitted him to complete the drafting of the bill because of his chairmanship of the Senate Civil Service Committee, which is now in organizational stage.

Langer added that he still will seek the support and advice of exhibitor organizations, and will urge that they be permitted to testify when hearings are held on the bill.

Special Master for Schoenstadt Case

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Judge Philip L. Sullivan in U. S. District Court here today appointed Charles A. McDonald as special master in chancery to hear evidence on the Schoenstadt Circuit's $675,000 triple damage anti-trust suit on behalf of its Picadilly Theatre. Defendants are eight major distributors, and B & K and Warner Bros. theatre circuits.

McDonald, a former judge of the Circuit Court, is expected to start hearing evidence within two weeks. The case was originally set to be heard by Judge Sullivan on Jan. 27.

Theatre Expansion Plans Sound Optimistic Note

That exhibition is presently looking ahead to continued prosperity in 1947 is established by the abundance of plans for new building and re-modeling as variously announced by theatremen around the country during recent weeks, according to observations expressed here by visiting theatremen and by New York distribution officials whose job it is to keep close contact with exhibition in the field.

However, one complaint heard most in exhibition circles, it is said, it that of the inability to improve operating conditions because of the continued lack of materials and labor difficulties.

But the urge to expand could hardly

(*Continued on page* 10)

Technicolor Back to 60% of Capacity

Recovering largely from the first effects of the long drawn out studio strike, Technicolor now has 788 film technicians on duty in its Hollywood studios, in comparison with a normal staff of 900, and has boosted its output to more than 60 per cent of capacity, according to the company's New York office.

Moreover, the output is increasing daily as 405 new employes, furnished by the IATSE, become more experienced. Of the 900 on the payroll when the strike began on Oct. 14, all

(*Continued on page* 6)

Hold Decree Goes Beyond 8 Defendants

Judgment Seen Hitting Republic, Mono., PRC

While the industry yesterday continued its scrutiny of the New York Federal Court decision, the scope of the court's decree came to the fore with many lawyers uniformly agreeing that the decree, if sustained, would govern all exhibitor-distributor business conduct, not excluding films from independent producers nor such companies as Republic, Monogram and Producers Releasing, which were not parties to the suit.

It was said that the New York court has established the rules for all of the industry, in that the court has interpreted the anti-trust laws as applicable to the film business. It follows, it was said, that violations of the

(*Continued on page* 6)

Bidding Hardships Sustained: Williams

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8. — Paul Williams, general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, told a meeting of the organization's board of directors here today that the final decree in the New York equity suit "does not alleviate or change to any practical degree hardships which competitive bidding will bring to exhibitors." Meanwhile, the SCTOA board has postponed for the immediate present the making of a decision as to whether an appeal

(*Continued on page* 6)

Wheeler Sales Head For Film Classics

Sam Wheeler, Film Classics' franchise holder in Washington, has been appointed sales manager of Classics, with headquarters at the New York office, according to Eugene Arnstein, secretary-treasurer of the company. Wheeler succeeds "Nicky" Goldhammer, who resigned some time ago.

Wheeler has already taken over his new duties and announces the appointment of Jules Chapman as his executive assistant.

Film Classics distributes Goldwyn and Selznick re-issues and recently acquired 24 Alexander Korda productions.

Personal Mention

DAN MICHALOVE, National Theatres vice-president, has returned to New York from a Florida vacation.

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PAUL MCNAMARA, national director of advertising, exploitation and publicity for Selznick Enterprises, has arrived in New York from the Coast to confer with NEIL AGNEW, president of Selznick Releasing Corporation.

•

ROBERT SELIG, assistant to the president of Fox Intermountain Theatres, has been elected to the *Denver Post* "Gallery of Fame" because of his work in the final USO drive.

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NED SHUGRUE, public relations director for the American Theatres Association, will leave here by plane tomorrow for Dallas.

•

FRANK ROSENBERG, director of Columbia studio publicity, will return to Hollywood Saturday after a home office of 10 days.

•

MR. and MRS. DAVID MISTLIN, exhibitors of London, England, have been visiting their son, A. MISTLIN, RKO booker at Memphis.

•

MARCE BRAZEE, Warner southern district manager at Oklahoma City, has been visiting J. H. McCarthy, Warner Theatre manager at Memphis.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, Warner's Eastern district manager, is in Buffalo and will return here at the end of the week.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal-International assistant general sales manager, will leave here today for Los Angeles.

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ARTHUR SHEEKMAN, Paramount writer, and his wife, actress GLORIA STUART, have left Hollywood for New York.

•

HARRY H. THOMAS, PRC president and general sales manager, is visiting company exchanges in San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

•

SAM DEMBOW, president of Golden Productions, left New York last night for the Coast.

•

ROSS HASTINGS is here from the Coast RKO Radio studios for home office conferences.

•

WILLIAM LOSS, Cinecolor vice-president, will leave Hollywood Saturday by plane for New York.

•

FRANK CAPRA, Liberty Films producer-director, will arrive here next Monday from Hollywood.

•

DANA ANDREWS, actor, has been spending a winter vacation with his wife and three children at Stowe, Vt.

•

MARION CARR, RKO Radio starlet, has arrived here from the Coast.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

THE June 11 decision in the Government's case halted the majors in their tracks. It stopped them, aware as they were that the findings were to be supported, revised or kicked out when the statutory court got around to its final decree. Clearly an interim step in the direction of the eventual outcome, the feeling was widespread that the June 11 decision had all the force of law. There is no evidence, insofar as this column knows, to indicate any of the defendants entertained other ideas or, if they had, that their legal advisors would have allowed such thinking to govern.

While it is correct, of course, that some companies were outside the precincts of the Government litigation, nevertheless, the June development also gave them pause, sent their attorneys in search of precedent, created uncertainty over policy which thereafter was never conclusively defined.

■

Unless the channels of investigation and information available to us are all wet, there continues to exist in the minds of the non-sued companies serious question over how restrictions ordered against the sued companies will affect those who never were involved in the action; whether or not there is not in the making a series of legal proscriptions ultimately designed to be binding upon the *whole* industry. Correct or not, as time will establish, there seems to be less doubt about the practicalities: How altered conditions affecting operations of eight companies are certain to effect changes in operating methods of those outside litigation's pale.

There are those who are prepared to state now that this is inevitable in a business as closely integrated as this.

■

But it seems there are those who take a different view. The SIMPP, made up of independent producers, is placing great reliance on the fact that its members, never having been defendants, are immunized against the prohibitions in the decree; that, consequently, SIMPP producers may enjoy all the free-wheeling they can stand, including insistence upon fixing minimum admissions, ignoring competitive bidding and sidestepping any need to establish the legality of clearance in the event of exhibitor challenge.

Moreover, and according to the legal interpretation upon which SIMPP is prepared to rest, the independent producer [Disney, Goldwyn and Liberty as examples] can instruct their distributor [RKO, in this case] to ignore decree mandates in these respects.

■

To a legally untrained eye, this ends upon the side of the improbable. It seems readily obvious that no distributor in the circumstances would risk the court contempt which unquestionably would follow such flagrant transgression without the greenest sort of advance signal from the bench itself. The producer, *per se,* would not face punishment, but the distributor, who is a defendant, could not escape it.

In the same position as its independent producers are Monogram, Republic and PRC in SIMPP's eyes. Never parties to the lawsuit, probably it is technically correct they do not have to conform to its consequences. Never parties to the litigation, Disney, Goldwyn, and Liberty, et al, could release through these companies, or any newly-created distributor, and ignore the restrictions now fastened upon other distributors.

But it is not at all likely that such oversimplification would go unchallenged. To take into full consideration is the attitude of the Department of Justice, evidently set upon creating rules of business conduct for the entire industry, and now fortified in some measure by a decree which outlines what these rules are to be. It seems remote for the Government to stand by without seeking redress while restraints wrapped around a majority are bypassed by a minority.

■

Moving from the abstract to the realities in this final paragraph is the highly interesting circumstance squarely and unavoidably faced by the newly-formed Selznick Releasing Organization. Here is a distributing company not party to the suit and, therefore, not bound by its findings.

Will it insist upon minimum admissions, traditionally a part of the roadshow formula, for "Duel in the Sun" and will it ignore competitive bidding where the exhibitor says he wants it? Will SRO, in effect, make itself the testing-ground tending to prove or disprove the soundness of the legal platform on which SIMPP stands, and which others similarly situated perhaps adopt?

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

ALL of the hulaboo over potential revolutionary changes in motion picture trade practices coming in the not too distant future, and growing out of the New York anti-trust litigation started by the Government some nine years ago, might well be anticipatory.

The Department of Justice's monopoly suit against the Alliance Corp. of America, which was finally brought to a close some 18 months ago, followed 40 years of litigation!

▽

Asked for his opinion of last week's consent decree in the New York anti-trust suit, the Shea Circuit's E. C. Grainger was reminded of independent exhibitor Sam Rinzler's crack: "One more victory like this and the independents will be out of business."

▽

***Motion Picture Herald* editor Terry Ramsaye offers the most lucid exhibitor reaction to date on the New York decree opinion, reporting from the first press proofs of the current *Herald,* as follows:**

"American Theatres Association, Si Fabian as spokesman, favors an appeal to the Supreme Court and takes a smacking wallop at the competitive-bidding provision in this forthright language:

"ETAOIN SHRDLU SHRsh sshhm."

▽

Newsreel cameraman Col. Bertram Kalisch, who resigned this week from the film division of the State Department, is the timid chap who, during the last war, stole into No Man's Land and induced the local German army commander to loan him a squad of German soldiers to drill for Kalisch's still and motion picture cameras. He also persuaded German Major-General Erich Elster to parade his 20,000 troops for the filming of Elster's formal surrender at Beaugency, France.

▽

What this country needs is a good five-cent nickel!

▽

M-G-M was pretty close the other day to being forced to make a sudden and dramatic decision discontinuing the production of Pete Smith's short subjects, when Pete and Max Weinberg, also of M-G-M's Culver City short-subject department, were caught in a gale in a punctured rubber raft while fishing off Malibu Beach, Cal. The underground reports that Pete lost all sense of humor in the two full hours during which he and Weinberg were marooned on the briny.

▽

Reconversion Note for Theatre Owners, sent by the Wometco Florida circuit of Mitchell Wolfson and Sidney Meyer:

1941—*The patron was always right.*
1942-46—*The patron was always left.*
1947: *Unless you make the patron right, you won't have a patron left.*

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Theatres Involved In AGVA Demands

Several hundred performers regularly playing the 200-odd film theatres using stage shows, will be involved in a program to obtain "cost-of-living" salary increases and improvements in working conditions for these and other entertainers, which will be launched by the American Guild of Variety Artists immediately after the union holds its first convention in Chicago in early spring, Matt Shelvey, national director, announces.

Also for the agenda of the AGVA assemblage will be confirmation of the guild's autonomy, recently re-established by its parent affiliate, the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, as well as adoption of a constitution and by-laws and nomination of national officers.

Shelvey said that Chicago has been selected as the convention locale because it contains a high concentration of AGVA members.

Officers to be Named

A board of directors comprising 45 members to be elected at the convention and a nominating committee to propose candidates for president, three vice-presidencies, recording secretary and treasurer will be named, Shelvey said. The present position of national director, which he holds by appointment of the "Four A's", will be eliminated. Shelvey indicated yesterday that he would probably not accept nomination to another official position.

The "Four A's" restored autonomy to AGVA last November after the talent union, which had been administered by the parent union since 1942, had succeeded early last year in paying off its indebtedness of about $70,000 to its sister unions. AGVA is still technically under the supervision of the "Four A's" until officers and a board of directors are elected.

Included in the AGVA wage and working condition demands are a 20 per cent increase in the basic minimum wages of all show girls, chorus entertainers and some secondary principals. Shelvey emphasized that, "In addition, AGVA will establish during the year, a wage scale of no less than $60 for chorus workers in traveling shows and a maximum work week of six days," he continued, pointing out that the present pay rule is $50 for a seven-day week.

Minimum Same

Except for chorus leaders, who are usually classified as principals, Shelvey declared the present minimum of $125 for principals in class A traveling shows will remain untouched, but he indicated that an investigation is now being conducted by AGVA to weigh the "need and possibilities" of a cost-of-living increase for principals in class A spots.

Other demands include improvement in dressing-room and other facilities.

Among alterations in structure foreshadowed in the proposed constitution is the dissolution of the remaining AGVA locals in Chicago, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and conversion of these into branches of the national office, patterned after the set-up in Actors' Equity. The change-over, regarded as more efficient in terms of the national rather than sectional scope of the branches, was begun in 1943.

In the period between conventions, day-to-day operation of the union would be in the hands of a national secretary, to be responsible to the directors, under the proposed constitution, which also prescribes at least one semi-annual meeting of directors.

State Dep't is Seen Sustaining Policies

Washington, Jan. 8. — The State Department's motion picture program and the Government's policy of cooperation with the Motion Picture Association's efforts toward reducing film trade barriers abroad, are expected to remain entirely unchanged with the appointment of Gen. George C. Marshall as Secretary of State to succeed James F. Byrnes who has resigned, effective Friday.

'White Collarites' to Seek Pay Increases

Charting of a new wage program will keynote a policy conference of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, at a two-day session at the Hotel Empire, here, over the weekend. Preliminary groundwork will be paved at a general executive board meeting scheduled to be held at the hotel today and tomorrow.

Three units of UOPWA: the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109; the Screen Publicists Guild, Local No. 114 and the Radio Guild, all of which will participate in the wage-rise meetings, have contracts with motion picture and radio companies.

A spokesman for the national office of the UOPWA said here yesterday that while a general policy for all "white collar" workers would be formulated, there was some doubt about an immediate application of a projected wage pattern in the film industry because of recently-concluded contracts. However, any formulas might hold for the motion picture industry as well, it was asserted.

Wage clauses in contracts between 10 companies and the SPG will be open for renegotiation at the end of next September, while SOPEG pacts with home offices will come up for discussion next summer on wage clauses. In neither case, however, do the contracts expire before the middle of 1948. On the other hand, SOPEG contracts with the Columbia, M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists exchanges, in which wage stipulations were renegotiated about two months ago, expire this summer.

Lewis Leaves SPG Post

Roger Lewis, who has left 20th Century-Fox to join the Monroe Greenthal advertising agency, here, is retiring as president of the Screen Publicists Guild, Local No. 114, here, and not of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109 as previously reported.

Ethel Croog to Rank

Ethel Croog, formerly a member of Warner's contract department, has joined the J. Arthur Rank Organization in a similar capacity.

Deny Move to Drop Case Against Brodie

Justice Matthew J. Troy, in Special Sessions here yesterday, declined the motion of assistant district attorney John A. McAvinue to dismiss personal charges against Benjamin Brodie, president of Benmier Amusement Corp., operators of the old Miami Theatre on Sixth Ave., which last summer was fined $500 for showing allegedly indecent films.

The case has been put over to Jan. 29 following McAvinue's withdrawal of the dismissal motion.

SOPEG Calls for Veterans Program

A tentative program setting forth several suggestions for a veterans employment program, including on-the-job training, are proposed in a request from the veterans committee of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109, for an early meeting with film executives already designated by M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Columbia, RKO Radio and United Artists, to handle problems of ex-servicemen employed in this industry.

Executives named by the companies for veterans problems are: Jack H. Lang, 20th-Fox; Charles F. O'Brien, M-G-M; Garret Van Wagner, RKO; Louis J. Barbano, Columbia; Harry D. Buckley, and, UA Arthur Israel, Paramount. The SOPEG committee is headed by Norman Hasselo of UA, vice-president of the union and a veterans committee chairman in each company.

Adjustment Proposed

In addition to industry-sponsored on-the-job training, the SOPEG committee proposes an adjustment of "inequities which have resulted from the employes' absence in the Armed Forces," plus retroactive payment of bonuses "which had been given to home-front employes, but not to veterans still considered to be employes of the company."

The letter, which was sent to the companies yesterday, added: "To the best of our knowledge, Columbia is the only company which gave its employes in the Armed Forces the same bonus as that given its employes on the home-front."

Emphasizing that the three-point suggestion "is a mere outline and in no sense should be construed as a complete program," the committee observed that it considers the proposals "a sound basis for negotiations." It also added that formulation of a veterans policy would be "in accordance with the terms of the union's existing contracts with the companies, signed last October."

Monogram Exchange Signs Pact, Grants Wage Rise

Wage rises of $6 to $8 for front-office employes at Monogram's New York exchange have been granted in a contract concluded between Monogram and SOPEG, Local No. 109, it was announced here yesterday by the union; retroactive to Dec. 30, 1946, the contract will expire Dec. 27, 1947.

All other clauses in the pact are similar to those contained in the agreements with other New York exchanges under SOPEG jurisdiction. Negotiators were Peter Friedhof, who is in charge of Monogram exchange operations, here, and Otto Langer, SOPEG representative.

Truman Urges More Anti-Trust Funds

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The anti-trust division of the Department of Justice has been laboring under inadequate appropriations, President Truman told Congress today in an economic report delivered preliminary to a recommendation for increased funds for the Department which the President is expected to make in his budget message on Friday.

"The trust activities of the Government should be better supplied with funds so that its activities can be more closely integrated," the President holds.

The President also devoted a considerable portion of his economic report to the importance of securing cooperation in international economic relations. "Both foreign trade and foreign investment are vital to maintaining a dynamic economy in this country," he told Congress.

The Chief Executive cautioned Congress that international trade is a matter of "give and take."

U-I Will Build New Exchange in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Universal-International will break ground for a new exchange building on Michigan Avenue here in the spring, and meantime, it is reported, Eagle-Lion and Producers Releasing Corp., are negotiating for "U's" present quarters.

The new "U" building will probably be two stories high, and will be the second exchange office (Paramount's was the first) to be built on Michigan Ave. A general trend in the moving of exchanges from the present Film-Row to the Michigan Ave. area is foreseen by distribution observers here.

Grant, Tierney, Leigh Ampa Lunch Guests

Cary Grant and Lawrence Tierney are expected to be among the film stars now in New York who will join the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers luncheon-meeting to be held at the Town Hall Club here today, and at which Douglas Leigh, amusement industry Broadway display creator, will be guest speaker. AMPA president Rutgers Neilson will preside, with Harry Blair, RKO Radio publicist, serving as member-guest master-of-ceremonies.

Benjamin Leaves WB, Is En Route to N. Y.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 8. — Ed Benjamin, has resigned as former Warner field exploiteer, here, and has left for New York.

Benjamin was one of about 12 such field representatives who recently were released by Warners in a move described here as a realignment of the company's field exploitation staff. The move reportedly cuts the field staff from 25 to some 13 to 15.

COLUMBIA PICTURES
presents

Mr. District Attorney

starring

DENNIS O'KEEFE · ADOLPHE MENJOU

MARGUERITE CHAPMAN · MICHAEL O'SHEA

with George COULOURIS · Jeff DONNELL · Steven GERAY · Ralph MORGAN · John KELLOGG

Screenplay by Ian McLellan Hunter · Based on the radio program "MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY" created by PHILLIPS H. LORD

Directed by ROBERT B. SINCLAIR · Produced by SAMUEL BISCHOFF

COLUMBIA PICTURES

There's a law
against women
like her...

Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

decree, if upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court, constitute violations of the anti-trust laws. Violators, the attorneys say, would therefore be subject to prosecution, with a precedent already established in the New York decree.

This is in direct contrast to the conclusion reached by counsel here for the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, who, as reported in yesterday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY, held that independent product as well as that of non-defendant distributors would be exempt from the provisions of the decree.

Among those who share the opinion that the non-defendants are in effect subject to the provisions of the decree is an attorney for one of the non-defendant companies. James R. Grainger, executive vice-president and general sales manager for Republic, had no comment to make, while a spokesman for PRC said he has yet to ascertain that company's position.

Bidding Hardships

(*Continued from page* 1)

from the final decree is advisable.

Asserting that the findings of fact of the final decree adopt in substantially verbatim language the decision of last June, Williams said that the decree would not seem to change the method of competitive bidding from the practical viewpoint of exhibitor interests. Obviously, he said, competitive bidding can only obtain in areas where there is actual or potential competition. From a realistic point of view, he added, competitive bidding could only have an effect between exhibitors who are in substantial competition with each other.

The SCOTA board set no date for arrriving at a decision on the advisability of an appeal.

Technicolor

(*Continued from page* 1)

but 35 walked out. Since then, 348 of the strikers have returned. The largest part of Technicolor's Coast plant is now on a schedule of three shifts, working around the clock, it was said here.

With between 30 and 40 Technicolor pictures scheduled to be made on the Coast this year, the costs of the process to the producers will rise sharply, according to the New York office.

SIMPP to Discuss Agenda Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8. — SIMPP's membership meets tomorrow to pass on the proposed agenda of activities for the coming year. It is expected that the effect of the Government decree on independent producers will be among the major matters. Donald Nelson will preside.

THERE'S ONLY ONE
Lord Tarleton
MIAMI BEACH
OCEAN FRONT • 40th to 41st Sts.
Reservations Invited • Walter Jacobs

'Give - Aways' Vogue On Way Up: Filmack

Chicago, Jan. 8.—A general slump in theatre business in this area, especially during mid-week periods, is claimed by Filmack Trailer Co., here, on the basis of an upsurge of trailer orders from theatres to advertise give-aways.

An analysis of special trailers ordered from Filmack during the first week of this month shows that free dishes, aluminum-ware and other items offered on midweek nights, are being presented to theatre patrons in an effort to stimulate business, it was said.

Film Stocks

(*Continued from page* 1)

Fox, seven-eighths to 35¼, compared with 36; Universal, five-eighths, to 25⅜, compared with 24¼ in 1946, and Warners, three-eighths to 16⅝, compared with 16¾ last year. Republic common stood firm; at seven, equal to the low of 1946, while Republic's convertible preferred was down one-quarter to 14, compared with 13⅝.

On the Curb Exchange, Monogram dropped one-eighth, closing at 4¾, compared with 4¼ in 1946. RKO's option warrants receded one-eighth to 4½, equal to its lowest last year. Technicolor was up three-eighths to 16⅜, compared with 14. Trans-Lux stood firm at 4⅛, compared with 3¾.

Reception Opens '411' Recording Studios

Enlarged and modernized, RCA's "411" film recording studios were formally opened here this week with a reception presided over by Frank M. Folsom, executive vice-president of RCA in charge of the RCA Victor division. Equipped to handle foreign language dubbing as well as English recording, narrative, sound effects, music and re-recording, the studios will handle 35mm. and 16mm. films.

Moon, Others Take Film Board Posts

Ray Moon, president, and other new officers of the New York Film Board of Trade were installed at a dinner and meeting at the home of Louis Nizer, attorney and executive secretary for the group, here, last night.

Other officers are Ralph Pielow, first vice-president; Jack Ellis, second vice-president; David A. Levy, treasurer; Robert J. Fannon, secretary, and William Murphy, sergeant-at-arms.

Academy Lists 409

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—The Academy today listed 409 pictures as eligible for nomination for its 1946 awards. The list goes to Academy members Jan. 13 and is returnable Jan. 28. Nominations will be revealed Feb. 10.

Two New Brandon Shorts

Film Alliance of America is releasing through Brandon Films, here, a 10-minute short subject, "Brotherhood of Man." Brandon has additionally acquired another 10-minute subject, "A Year of Freedom."

Story Prod.

(*Continued from page* 1)

will be adaptations of published story material on "best seller" lists. Story will concentrate first on pushing the sales and publicity of each book which the company will bring to the screen. At present, for example, the company is working closely with the Literary Guild in promotion of the Taylor Caldwell novel, "This Side of Innocence," which Story plans to have before the cameras next spring as its first production.

In all probability, distribution will be through United Artists, which already has a proposed contract on hand, awaiting Story's approval. Horne, who is board and executive chairman, said here that the deal might be expected to be closed at any time, although he added he had not seen the terms of the pact.

Armand Deutsch, president of the company, is here from Hollywood sitting in on discussions of the agreement.

Many at Stamp Club's Inaugural Meeting

The Cinema Stamp Collectors held its inaugural meeting at the New York Museum of Science and Industry here last night, and heard an address by Harry Lindquist, president of the International Philatelic Exhibition. Nat Cohn of Columbia, president of the organization, presided.

Other highlights of the meeting were discussions of organization plans, and inspection of displays to be entered in the International Exposition, next May. Invited to the meeting were: Leon J. Bamberger and Robert Maroney, RKO Radio; Henderson Richey, Howard Levy and Ed Aarons, M-G-M; Albert Dean, Paramount; John Wenisch and Sid Weiner, Film Classics; Jack Levy, National Screen Service; Sid Kulick, Bell Pictures; J. J. Hoffberg, and others.

Need for Assembled Theatres — Skouras

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—Officially announcing the opening Jan. 23 of the "pre-fashioned" Crest Theatre at Long Beach, Charles Skouras said today that a big market exists for this type house in small American towns and bombed-out cities abroad.

Skouras said the assembly line in Los Angeles can turn out these theatres as fast as orders are received as soon as materials are available.

"Every item—walls, ceilings, plumbing, decorations, and box offices—can be cut and pre-built at the factory and assembled in record time at the site, requiring in most cases as little as eight weeks," said Skouras.

Scouts Seek $30,000 In Amusement Field

The 1947 campaign of the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America, which seeks $30,000 in the amusement industry, was launched with a "Dawn Patrol Breakfast" at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here yesterday morning. Mike Siegel of Century Circuit attended on behalf of Fred J. Schwartz and Louis A. Lotito, division co-chairmen.

Richard Tyler, Hollywood star, received an Eagle Scout badge at the breakfast and, in turn, administered the oath to the area's 450,000th new scout. James A. Farley was the principal speaker.

Norton Ritchey Sees An Outstanding '47

The 1947 foreign distribution horizon is virtually limitless, Monogram International's President Norton V. Ritchey holds at the start of the year. Ritchey, who has promised Monogram a 100 per cent increase in foreign sales in 1947 over 1946, cites the company's new producing affiliate, Allied Artists, which is slated to turn out films with minimum budgets of $1,000,000 as one of the reasons for this outlook.

Norton Ritchey

But Allied Artists' appearance shares with a number of other features responsibility for Ritchey's outlook. He named them: Monogram International's determination to steer clear of "fixed policies"; its reinvigorated sales offices throughout the world, particularly in South America; Monogram's mounting proneness to film exteriors at locations abroad for purposes of authenticity (a Monogram field unit recently returned from Switzerland), and the fact that world markets that have been reopened since the war's end are offering business vastly better than was to be had before the war.

Personal Increase

Monogram International personnel abroad will be increased substantially in 1947, particularly in terms of sales representatives, Ritchey said. This year the company stationed a considerable number of new managers at key points, namely: Floyd Crowder, China; Luis Lee, Panama; James Meeseri, Cuba; J. J. Lawlor, India; William Osborne, Far East supervisor, who currently is en route to Manila from the U. S., and others. Meanwhile, Ritchey said, the company has its sights trained on Central Europe, and will be ready to move in there when conditions warrant.

Ritchey disclosed that the company has completed dubbing on some of 11 pictures, including "Dillinger," "Forever Yours" and several "Charlie Chan" features, for release in France during 1947.

More for Holland

This year will see a substantial number of Monogram productions added to the 20 thus far distributed in Holland, he said, adding that five of 20 scheduled are dubbed and ready for release in Italy during 1947; 12 more are being grooved for the Czechoslovakian market; 30 are slated for Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and 22 have been put into release in the Dutch East Indies.

Either Monogram or Allied Artists will produce at least one picture in England in 1947, Ritchey said. Studio space there is expected to be made available to the company soon.

Fete Rogers, Corwin

A reception for writers Bernard Rogers and Norman Corwin will be given by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, tomorrow, at the Lotos Club, here.

Short Subjects

"Tumble Weed Tempos"

(*Universal*)

A hayride picnic provides the setting for the music of the Spade Cooley orchestra, the songs of Ella Mae Morse and the antics of "Smoky" Rogers. Musical numbers include: "The Campbells Are Coming," "The Life of the Party," "Turn My Picture Upside Down," "Crazy 'Cause I Love You," and "Don't Move." Running time, 15 minutes.

"Bandits and Ballads"

(*RKO Radio*)

Ray Whitley and his Six-Bar Cowboys are deputy sheriffs who are out to arrest the notorious Kid Carson. Since the Kid is fond of music, the boys set a musical trap for him. Several good Western tunes are offered. Running time, 17 minutes.

"Fair Weather Fiends"

(*Universal*)

Woody Woodpecker and his pal take a cruise on their yacht in this Lantz Color Cartune. Since both are hearty eaters, special emphasis is placed on provisioning the yacht with food. But a tornado wrecks the yacht and casts the pals up on a desert island where they sit and contemplate eating each other. Running time, seven minutes.

"Melody of Youth"

(*Warner Brothers*)

Peter Merenblum's California Junior Symphony plays such favorites as "The Blue Danube," "Dark Eyes," "Beautiful Dreamer," and "The Washington Post March." Running time, 10 minutes.

"Minstrel Days"

(*Warner Brothers*)

With Bud Jamison, Willie Best, Al Heman, Billy Elliott, the Songfellows Quartet and the Three Hi Hatters, the subject brings back the old minstrel show in all its melodic flavor. Entertainers like Al Jolson and Eddie Cantor make it a tuneful treat. Running time, 20 minutes.

"Best in Show (Dogs)"

(*Columbia*)

Man's best friend, a dog, is the star of this "Sport Reel" in which canines are shown being trained for their big moment when they vie with other champion-caliber dogs for the Blue Ribbon. The camera fellows the training of a three-month-old puppy for the dog show. Bill Stern does the narration. Running time, nine minutes.

"The Wacky Weed"

(*Universal*)

Andy Panda gets involved with a superhuman week when he attempts to fix up his garden. Every time he puts a plant in the ground this pernicious weed grasps the plant and chokes it to death. Andy chases the weed with lawnmowers, tractors and weed-killer. A Lantz color cartune. Running time, seven minutes.

60 to Mexico for Variety Induction

R. J. O'Donnell, national chief barker of the Variety Clubs International, in New York for business conferences discloses here that over 60 persons will make the trip to Mexico City for the Jan. 16 inauguration of the new Mexico City tent of Variety.

Heading the delegation will be O'Donnell, accompanied by the following national officers: John H. Harris, founder and "Big Boss" of the organization; William McCraw, executive director; Chick Lewis, Director of Public Relations, and James Blamer, chief ceremonial barker, who will conduct the ritual of induction of the Mexico City Tent.

Others from the industry who will spend the week in the Mexican Capital, are: Sam Dembow, Jr., William O'Donnell, Lew Bray, Mr. and Mrs. Abel Green, Buddy Harris, Dick Owen, Dick Foy, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Lutzer, Ned Shugrue, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Matson, and two daughters; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jossey, Dave Lutzer, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Darden, Bob Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thorniley, Ted Taylor, George Schepps, Mr. and Mrs. Tex Feldman, and Mr. and Mrs. Doc Booth.

This group will meet in Dallas, prior to Jan. 15 when they will fly to Mexico City. Additionally, representatives from many tents around the country will make their own travel plans and will reach the Mexican capital during the week of the induction ceremonies.

In Mexico the several dinners, parties and induction will be attended by most representatives of both Mexican and American film industries located South of the border. Several groups from Hollywood are scheduled to journey from that city, including a delegation from the RKO Radio studios to visit their own Churubusco Studios where they will be hosts at luncheon and an inspection trip on Jan. 17. N. Peter Rathvon will head that company's visitors and executives. If prior engagements can be changed, RKO's Ned Depinet will also make the trip, with the Texas group.

Army Time Disputed By Autry, Republic

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—The State Supreme Court today took under advisement the dispute between Republic Pictures and Gene Autry as to whether the star's time in the Army counts on his contract period, and gave the disputants 35 days in which to submit arguments.

The studio said last week that Autry cannot proceed with his announced productions for Columbia until he has completed his Republic contract, which the actor contends expires in March.

Branton Inducted As Head of Variety

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 8.—John Branton and other recently-elected officers of Northwest Variety club were inducted at a dinner meeting at the club's headquarters in the Nicollet Hotel. Branton succeeds Arthur W. Anderson as chief barker, with the latter continuing in a special post to complete the club's heart hospital fund raising campaign.

Regents Sets Jan. 16 For 'Outlaw' Appeal

The New York State Board of Regents has set Jan. 16 as the date for hearing an appeal by New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding in his attempt to have Howard Hughes' production of "The Outlaw" barred from exhibition in the state. Unprecedented in New York censorship history, the hearing by the state's highest body in film reviewing will be held in Albany next Thursday, instead of today, as previously expected by Fielding.

Fielding's plea, calling upon the Regents Board to reconsider arguments advanced by city officials to have the film banned because of advertising and exploitation which they claim was "obscene" and "immoral," came last month after the motion picture (censorship) division of the state Education Department rejected the application by Fielding and the city corporation counsel for revocation of the film's license.

Advised of the hearing next week, in addition to the city license commissioner, were the Hughes Tool Co., owner of the motion picture, and United Artists, as distributor.

At the same time, it was learned here that the action, filed by Hughes Tool, in New York County Supreme Court, for a declaratory judgment and to prohibit Fielding and New York police commissioner Arthur Wallander from interfering with exhibition of the film, here, will probably be heard by the end of this month, or in early February. Sought in the declaratory judgment, according to a spokesman for ex-Governor Charles Poletti who is handling the case for Hughes, is an interpretation of the law which created the motion picture division and the relation thereto of city police powers.

Monogram Executive To St. Louis Today

Monogram president Steve Broidy, national advertising-publicity director Louis Lifton and other company executives will leave the Coast today, and a contingent of company executives in New York will leave here today, for St. Louis where, on Saturday and Sunday, all Monogram franchise holders and branch managers will meet at the Coronado Hotel.

The group leaving New York will include vice-president Edward Morey, general sales manager Morey Goldstein, Monogram-International president Norton V. Ritchey, director of sales Jack Schlaifer, Eastern sales manager Arthur Greenblatt, Eastern district manager Nat Furst, and contract manager Si Borus.

146 More Theatres Sign With Monogram

HOLLYFHOOD, Jan. 8.—Four circuits, operating 146 theatres, have signed contracts for Monogram's entire output for 1946-47, according to president Steve Broidy. They are Frisina Amusement Co., with 46 theatres in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri; Interstate Theatre Corp., with 39 in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont; Everett Enterprises, with 37 in North and South Carolina; Associated Theatres, with 24 in Ohio.

Key City

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BUFFALO

The after New Year pickup was in evidence here in a generally fair week. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 11:

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $27,300. (Average: $19,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $18,000)

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,400. (Average: $15,000)

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $6,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $16,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business has been good in spots despite bad weather. Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 7-8:

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB) and LITTLE MISS BIG (U)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,700)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $15,800)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $9,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $14,400)

MARGIE (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,700)

Gruenberg Schedules More 'Depinet' Meets

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 8. — Len S. Gruenberg, captain of the 1947 "Ned Depinet" Drive, will arrive here next Tuesday for meetings with the local exchange force in connection with the drive, which began on Dec. 20. Gruenberg, who is accompanied by Frank Drumm, assistant to Nat Levy, RKO Radio Eastern division sales manager, will also cover the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington and Philadelphia offices, arriving in New York next Saturday.

Variety Testimonial For Anderson Jan. 20

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 8. — Northwest Variety Club will be host to its outgoing chief barker, Art Anderson, at a testimonial dinner on Jan. 20, in recognition for his campaign to erect the Variety Heart Hospital on the University of Minnesota campus.

Heading the list of scheduled speakers at the dinner are William McGrew, national Variety executive; president James L. Morrill and Dr. Harold S. Diehl, of the university, and O. J. Arnold, Minneapolis industry representative who had an active part in the fund campaign.

This is what we said about "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

"STAIRWAY TO
HEAVEN"

The
COMMAND
PERFORMANCE
PICTURE

selected from the world's finest screen entertainment

Why was "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN" selected as the first motion picture to have a Command Performance? A distinction no other film can claim!

There is a good reason for this—"STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN" is not only an extraordinarily good motion picture, but it is also "advanced" in every phase of production. It is evocative of all the fine things that can be achieved by the magic of creative elements. It contains poetic dialogue which takes it up to heaven yet down to earth in its universal appeal. It presents something entirely new in chromatic technicolor. It has acting which has not been surpassed—a story that may be rightly acclaimed as different...yet something that is appealing to everyone. To sum it up, "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN" signifies the motion picture of tomorrow with the appeal of today!

ALL SEATS RESERVED
All Prices Include Taxes
Three Performances Mon. thru Friday
Matinees at 2:30 ALL SEATS, $1.50
Evenings at 7:15, $1.80
Evenings at 9:30, $2.40

Four Performances Saturdays
Matinees at 2:30 and 5:00, $1.80
Evenings at 7:30 and 10:00, $2.40

Four Performances Sundays & Holidays
Matinees at 2, $1.80—at 4:30, $2.40
Evenings 7:00 and 9:30, $2.40

All seats for the CHRISTMAS DAY performances and for the first four weeks now on sale at our boxoffice. Mail orders handled in order of receipt.

J. Arthur Rank presents
DAVID NIVEN
RAYMOND MASSEY
ROGER LIVESEY
"Stairway TO HEAVEN"
in Technicolor
with
Kim Hunter • Marius Goring
Written, Produced and Directed by
MICHAEL POWELL
and
EMERIC PRESSBURGER
A Production of the Archers
A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Starting
CHRISTMAS DAY *with* FOUR PERFORMANCES

First Come
First Reserved!
TICKETS
NOW ON SALE

Park Avenue Theatre
Park Avenue at 59th Street, New York, N. Y. • PLaza 9-5087

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1946.

THE SCREEN IN REVIEW

'Stairway to Heaven,' a British Production at Park Avenue, Proves a Holiday Delight—

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

Had you harked you would have heard the herald angels singing an appropriate paean of joy over a wonderful new British picture, "Stairway to Heaven," which came to the Park Avenue Theatre yesterday. And if you will listen now to this reviewer you will hear that the delicate charm, the adult humor and visual virtuosity of this Michael Powell—Emeric Pressburger film render it indisputably the best of a batch of Christmas shows.

If you wished to be literal about it you might call it romantic fantasy with psychological tie-ins. But literally is not the way to take this deliciously sophisticated frolic in imagination's realm. For this is a fluid contemplation of a man's odd experiences in two worlds, one the world of the living and the other the world of his fantasies—which, in this particular instance, happens to be the great beyond. And the fact that the foreword advises, "any resemblance to any other worlds, known or unknown, is purely coincidental," is a cue to the nature and the mood.

We've no time for lengthy explanations—other than to remark that, by all the laws of probabilities, Squadron Leader Peter Carter should have been killed when he leaped from a burning bomber without a parachute over the Channel on May 2, 1945. And that is the natural assumption which revolves in the back of his injured mind. But, still alive after a freakish salvation and in love with a thoroughly mortal American Wac, he resists the hallucinary "messenger" who keeps summoning him to the beyond. Indeed, he resists so strongly—in his disordered mind, that is—that he conceives an illusory "trial" in heaven in which his appeal to remain on earth is heard before a highly heterogeneous tribunal. And through this court (and by a brain operation), he is spared.

That gives you a slight indication of the substance and flavor of this film—and we haven't space at this writing to give you any more, except to say that the wit and agility of the producers, who also wrote and directed the job, is given range through the picture in countless delightful ways: in the use, for instance, of Technicolor to photograph the earthly scenes and sepia in which to vision the hygienic regions of the Beyond (so that the heavenly "messenger," descending, is prompted to remark, "Ah, how one is starved for Technicolor up there!").

We haven't space to credit the literate wit of the heavenly "trial" in which the right of an English flier to marry an American girl is discussed, with all the subtle ruminations of a cultivated English mind that it connotes, or the fine cinematic inventiveness and visual "touches" that sparkle throughout, notably in the exciting production designs of Alfred Junge.

Nor have we the space to say more than that David Niven is sensitive and real as the flier chap; that Roger Livesey is magnificent as his physician (and later advocate in the Beyond); that Kim Hunter is most appealing as his American sweetheart and that many more do extremely well, including Raymond Massey, who plays the lawyer for the Court of Records at the heavenly "trial." (Mr. Massey represents the spirit of the first Boston patriot killed in the Revolutionary War.)

But we'll have much more to say later, when we've got Christmas out of our hair. Till then, take this recommendation: see "Stairway to Heaven." It's a delight!

"'Stairway To Heaven' deserves the highest recommendation of any film of the year!"

from the N. Y. Times "Ten Best of the Year"

New Theatres

SANFRANCISCO, Jan. 8.—The opening of the Esquire Theatre in Stockton last week heralded another lavish addition to the Blumenfeld circuit. Featuring fluorescent murals over the expanse of each wall of the theatre proper and double sets of full-length glass doors at the entrance, the house which accommodates 1,190, represents the fourth first-run theatre in Stockton.

Blumenfeld, who built the theatre in partnership with Joe Huff of Stockton, and Dennis McNerney of this city, expended more than $230,000 to acquire the property. The cost of construction was reportedly $200,000.

First-Run Pix Theatre Opens in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8. — Samuel Cummins' new Pix Theatre opened here last week with the showing of "Henry V", to initiate its reserved-seat, first-run de luxe policy. With a seating capacity of 500, the house is located in the heart of the business district, at 19th and Market Streets.

4 Drive-ins Among 7 New Theatres Set for South

ATLANTA, Jan. 8.—Seven new theatres, including four drive-ins in Alabama, are slated to go into construction shortly in the South. R. J. Barnes, vice-president of BFI Amusement Co. of Montgomery, Ala., has announced projected automobile theatres for Auburn, Gadsden, Phoenix City and Anniston.

The other new houses planned are: one in Flowery Branch, Ga., by W. O. Anderson; the Earle, a 500-seat house, in Callahan, Fla., and a new $54,000 theatre in Maiden, N. C., to be built by the Miller Realty Co. of Lincolnton, N. C.

New House in Kansas Is Third by W. D. Fulton

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 8.—The Avenue Theatre opened here last week. In the heart of the city's main business district, the new house is a block from the State. W. D. Fulton, owner of both theatres, as well as the Vogue in Kansas City, Mo., declared that the State will continue in operation "at least temporarily."

Also among recent openings in Kansas is the Overland, of that city, a new 500-seater of the Dickinson, Inc., circuit. Millard Loumaster is manager.

Plan Newsreel Theatre In Oakland, Calif.

OAKLAND, Jan. 8.—D. B. Levin and L. Kaliski have filed a building permit on behalf of the Lux Theatre Co. to remodel their property here for a newsreel theatre.

Open Three New Houses In Upper New England

BOSTON, Jan. 8.—Three new theatres were opened recently in upper New England. They are: the State, Presque Isle, owned by Lloyd Bridgham, to replace the old structure which was destroyed by fire some time ago; the New Central, operated by the M. and P. Theatres, with George Friary as manager, both in Maine, and the Island Theatre at Portsmouth, R. I., a new 500-seat house owned by Orville H. Smith and Len Vail.

REEVES
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Record Slump Hit Grosses

(Continued from page 1)

the overall volume of business in Dec., 1946, stood fairly well above the $14,558 average for the same month in 1945.

"Blue Skies" took the box-office lead, with November's leaders, "Two Years Before the Mast" and "Margie" again registering top vigor. Weighty competition was offered by "The Dark Mirror," "Wake Up and Dream," "Song of the South," "The Show-Off," "The Strange Woman" and "Undercurrent." "The Best Years of Our Lives" and "It's a wonderful Life" which had begun to reach the key cities toward the end of the month, demonstrated powerful grossing propensities, and "The Razor's Edge," which made its appearance somewhat earlier, also showed considerable strength. Also crowding competition were "Undercurrent," "Cloak and Dagger." "Magnificent Doll," "The Jolson Story," "The Killers," "Shadow of a Woman," "I've Always Loved You," "Claudia and David," "My Darling Clementine," and "The Time, the Place and the Girl."

Other films turning in better-than-average grosses in a number of situations were: "They Were Sisters," "The Falcon's Adventure," "Home Sweet Homicide," "Caravan" (British), "The Secret Heart," "Thrill of Brazil," "San Quentin," "Angel on My Shoulder," "The Verdict," "Notorious Gentleman," "The Chase," "The Return of Monte Cristo," "Temptation," "Home in Oklahoma," "Cross My Heart," "The Wife of Monte Cristo," "The Westerner" (reissue) "Never Say Goodby," "The Bachelor's Daughters," "The Cockeyed Miracle" and "Gallant Bess."

Composite key city box-office reports for 1946, compared with corresponding weeks of 1945, follow:

1946 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 4-5	142	$3,304,300	$23,270
Jan. 11-12	144	2,940,100	20,417
Jan. 18-19	150	2,706,300	18,040
Jan. 25-26	158	2,800,100	17,722
Feb. 1-2	157	2,277,000	18,390
Feb. 8-9	158	2,798,300	17,756
Feb. 15-16	159	2,755,400	17,330
Feb. 22-23	156	2,638,200	16,918
March 1-2	164	3,106,000	18,939
March 8-9	163	2,926,600	17,955
March 15-16	154	2,818,800	18,304
March 22-23	165	2,981,100	18,067
March 29-30	167	2,810,300	16,828
April 5-6	170	2,908,100	17,106
April 12-13	165	2,845,300	17,244
April 19-20	161	2,694,600	16,737
April 26-27	164	3,187,000	19,433
May 3-4	162	3,025,400	18,675
May 10-11	144	2,409,700	16,734
May 17-18	150	2,526,500	16,843
May 24-25	152	2,406,500	15,832
May 31-June 1	130	2,058,200	15,855
June 7-8	152	2,803,000	18,506
June 14-15	154	2,541,800	16,506
June 21-22	140	2,406,900	17,092
June 28-29	159	2,559,000	16,094
July 5-6	167	2,737,500	16,392
July 12-13	154	2,944,200	19,112
July 19-20	163	2,599,300	15,928
July 26-27	157	2,702,700	17,215
Aug. 2-3	165	2,856,600	17,193
Aug. 9-10	162	2,919,700	18,023
Aug. 16-17	157	2,852,000	18,165
Aug. 23-24	167	3,078,800	18,435
Aug. 30-31	166	2,984,500	17,979
Sept. 6-7	171	3,469,600	20,290
Sept. 13-14	170	3,015,600	17,739
Sept. 20-21	169	3,944,800	17,425
Sept. 27-28	168	2,804,900	16,696
Oct. 4-5	172	2,995,300	17,409
Oct. 11-12	169	2,740,800	16,218
Oct. 18-19	169	2,701,000	15,982
Oct 25-26	177	3,093,000	17,475
Nov. 1-2	174	2,925,000	16,810
Nov. 8-9	164	2,830,800	17,261
Nov. 15-16	177	3,068,800	17,338
Nov. 22-23	170	2,785,400	16,384
Nov. 29-30	160	2,698,700	16,867
Dec. 6-7	174	3,328,900	19,131
Dec. 13-14	163	2,699,100	16,559
Dec. 20-21	168	2,381,000	14,173
Dec. 27-28	161	2,202,100	13,677

1945 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 5-6	136	$2,828,300	$20,796
Jan. 12-13	133	2,393,400	17,995
Jan. 19-20	136	2,289,400	16,826
Jan. 26-27	149	2,543,400	17,069
Feb. 2-3	148	2,534,300	17,123
Feb. 9-10	144	2,506,700	17,407
Feb. 16-17	141	2,491,800	17,672
Feb. 23-24	143	2,448,000	17,118
March 2-3	134	2,462,100	18,373
March 9-10	144	2,448,700	17,000
March 16-17	152	2,530,500	16,648
March 23-24	144	2,248,900	16,687
March 30-31	137	2,123,100	15,446
April 6-7	129	2,293,900	17,872
April 13-14	138	2,268,600	16,349
April 20-21	123	1,893,700	15,395
April 27-28	137	2,179,500	15,908
May 4-5	132	2,141,000	16,219
May 11-12	123	2,166,400	17,613
May 18-19	141	2,390,000	16,950
May 25-26	127	2,052,800	16,153
June 1-2	119	1,902,700	15,989
June 8-9	128	2,020,800	15,788
June 15-16	136	2,266,600	16,666
June 22-23	125	1,903,400	15,227
June 29-30	119	1,952,800	16,410
July 6-7	132	2,248,900	17,371
July 13-14	143	2,586,800	18,089
July 20-21	131	2,271,300	17,384
July 27-28	123	2,156,100	17,529
Aug. 3-4	136	2,395,400	17,613
Aug. 10-11	120	2,316,100	19,300
Aug. 17-18	129	2,367,500	18,352
Aug. 24-25	147	2,699,200	18,362
Aug. 31-Sept. 1	146	2,676,100	18,334
Sept. 7-8	139	2,689,600	19,350
Sept. 14-15	141	2,484,600	17,621
Sept. 21-22	143	2,535,700	17,732
Sept. 28-29	140	2,360,100	16,858
Oct. 5-6	146	2,512,400	17,208
Oct. 12-13	136	2,475,200	18,200
Oct. 19-20	137	2,454,100	17,913
Oct. 26-27	139	2,476,700	17,818
Nov. 2-3	134	2,331,300	17,400
Nov. 9-10	137	2,359,300	17,141
Nov. 16-17	137	2,487,700	18,151
Nov. 23-24	155	2,544,900	16,412
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	161	2,986,500	17,900
Dec. 7-8	162	2,446,300	15,101
Dec. 14-15	159	2,441,700	15,357
Dec. 21-22	159	2,097,400	13,191
Dec. 28-29	128	1,867,000	14,581

Open 1,500-Seat 'Town' In Baltimore January 14

BALTIMORE, Jan. 8.—Opening of the Town Theatre, new first-run house in the downtown district, is scheduled for Jan. 14. The building, under construction since last June, is owned by Isador M. Rappaport, owner of the Hippodrome and Little Theatre. The new house will seat 1,500.

Shulmans Plan Building with Theatre in Worcester

WORCESTER, Mass., Jan. 8.—Arthur and Jacob Shulman have announced plans for a one-story brick building at Southbride and Cambridge Sts., here, to include a motion picture theatre, bowling alleys and stores.

$75,000 House in Cal. Town Opened by Marks, Heber

NORTH SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 8.—Opening of the Lux Theatre, here, marks the appearance of the largest house for this rural district. The theatre is owned by Hubert Marks and Henry Heber.

Theatre Expansion

(Continued from page 1)

spell anything but optimism, is the conclusion drawn generally.

David Flexer, of Memphis, is the most recent to make known plans for expansion, these calling for the construction of 15 houses to add to his present 12-unit circuit in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Excepting sporadic instances, of course, actual building has yet to progress beyond the blue-print stage. Re-decorating has been costly and time-consuming, as in one case, Century's Avalon, here, which remained dark weeks after its scheduled re-opening because of difficulties encountered in the course of the job.

Walter Reade's experience in opening the Park Avenue Theatre, which Universal recently acquired, provides an example of theatre supply and construction handicaps. In order to open the house on schedule various pieces of equipment, including seats, had to be flown to New York from various points. Government clearance additionally, was not devoid of red-tape hindrances.

Malcolm Kingsberg, president of RKO Theatres, here, reasons that theatremen, including himself, hold to the belief that the public is more fixed in habits and motion pictures have come to be the basic entertainment.

Business Peak Reached

However, the business peak is said to have been reached, and while profitable operation is looked for, the "leveling off" period is seen not far ahead by some.

Oscar Doob, Loew's Theatres executive, states that while business during recent months has been "very good," and "nothing drastic" in the way of a business recession is anticipated, there is a likelihood of some return to normalcy in box-office returns.

Kingsberg and Doob, among others, point out that product must figure prominently in any analysis of business prospects for the new year and that films on the market today and those forthcoming tend to show continuing improvement.

While theatre expansion by affiliated companies is precluded by the anti-trust litigation, the majority are making efforts to re-decorate their houses. Doob said that Loew's program includes new roofs, seats and carpeting for a number of theatres.

To Film 'Hamlet'

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Filippo Del Giudice, managing director of Two Cities Films, today revealed that he and Laurence Olivier, British star, will jointly produce William Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Olivier will star and direct the film, with preliminary work slated work to start in March.

Preview for 'Fantasy'

"Fantasy in Fashion," a Sam Friedlander production, filmed in color, will be previewed at the Chanin Auditorium here this afternoon. Directed by Lemuel Ayers, the film will be shown in conjunction with a press reception.

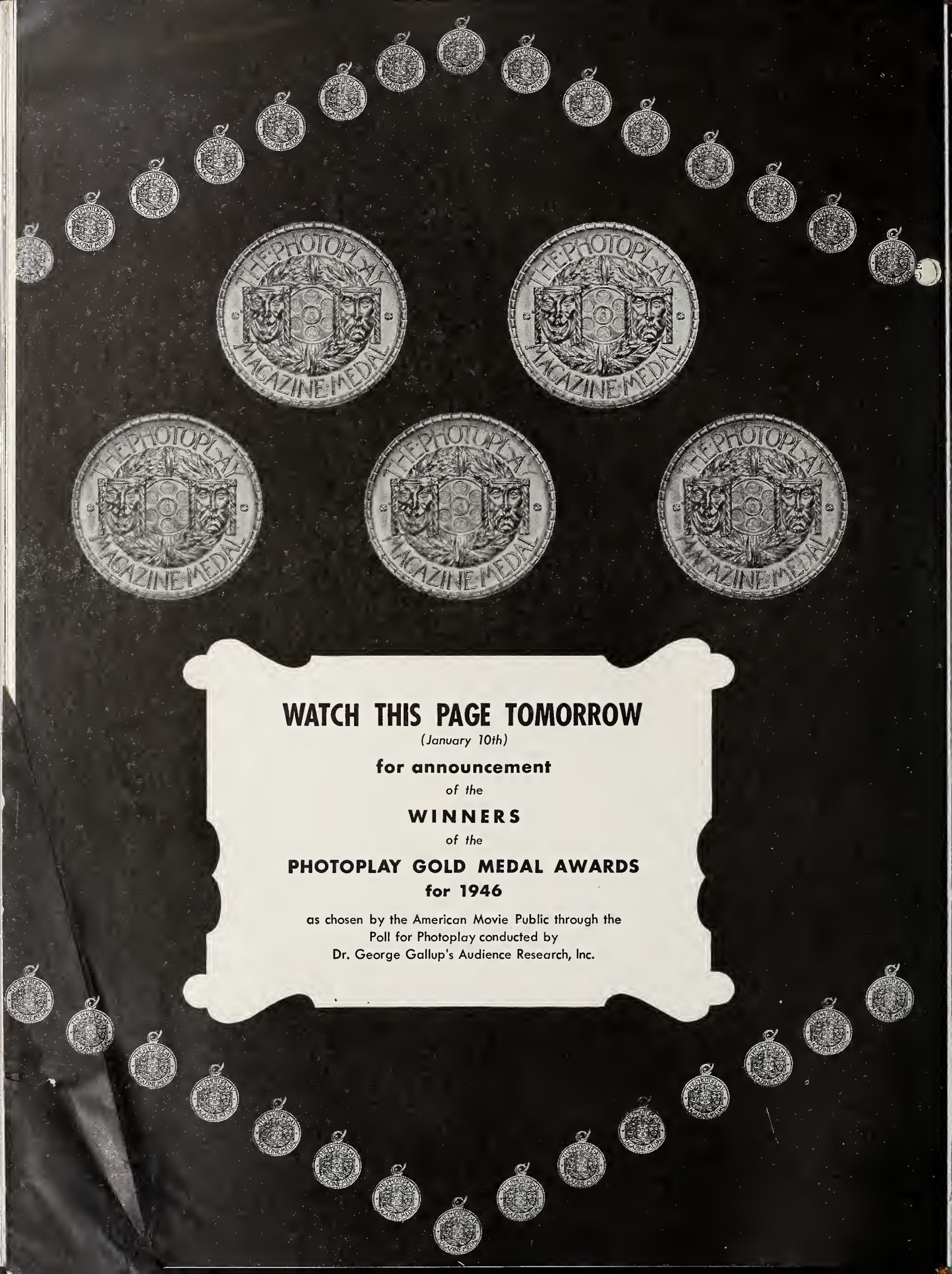
Freydberg Joins Coe

Nicholas Freydberg, former assistant to the publisher of *Newsweek*, and recently of the promotion department of the *New York Herald Tribune*, has joined Donahue and Coe, advertising agency, here, which services many film and theatre accounts.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Dec. 14	BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW Chester Morris Trudy Marshall D—69 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Dec. Releases) LADY IN THE LAKE Robt. Motgomery Audrey Totter D—105 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46) SECRET HEART Claudette Colbert Walter Pidgeon D—97 mins. (Rev. 11/29/46) THE SHOW-OFF Red Skelton Marilyn Maxwell C—83 mins. (708) (Rev. 8/13/46)	(Re-issue) SILVER STALLION David Sharpe Janet Waldo D—56 min.			(Dec. 15 Release) FABULOUS SUZANNE Barbara Britton Rudy Valee D—71 mins. (604) (Dec. 22 Release) THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas (Dec. 23 Releases) STAGECOACH TO DENVER Allan Lane Bobby Blake THAT BRENNAN GIRL James Dunn Mona Freeman D—95 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	GENIUS AT WORK Wally Brown Alan Carney C—61 mins. (Rev. 8/1/46) CHILD OF DIVORCE Sharyn Moffett Regis Toomey D—62 mins. (Rev. 10/21/46) CRIMINAL COURT Tom Conway Martha O'Driscoll D—63 mins. (Rev. 8/9/46) DEADLIERTHAN THE MALE Claire Trevor Lawrence Tierney (Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)	(Dec. Releases) THE RAZOR'S EDGE Tyrone Power Gene Tierney Anne Baxter Clifton Webb D—146 min. (647) (Rev. 11/20/46) DANGEROUS MILLIONS Kent Taylor Dona Drake D—69 min. (648) (Rev. 12/2/46)	(Comet Prod.) SUSIE STEPS OUT Cleatus Caldwell David Bruce C—65 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)		
Dec. 21	ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT Michael Duane The Fighting Frontiersman D—61 min. (863) (Rev. 11/18/46)		SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI Elyse Knox Phil Regan M—75 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)							(Dec. Release) TEMPTATION Merle Oberon George Brent D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/16/46))	
Dec. 28	SINGIN' IN THE CORN Judy Canova C—64 min. (Rev. 11/25/46)		SONG OF THE SIERRAS Jimmy Wakely 'Lasses' White O—681	BLUE SKIES Bing Crosby Fred Astaire M—107 min. (Rev. 9/26/46)					(Crosby) ABIE'S IRISH ROSE Michael Chekhov Joanna Dru D—96 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)		THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (Color) M—105 min. (610) (Rev. 12/10/46)
Jan. 4	(Dec. Release) RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO Louis Hayward Barbara Britton (Rev. 11/27/46)		GINGER Frank Albertson Barbara Reed					(Jan. Releases) THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM Betty Grable Dick Haymes M—85 mins. (Rev. 12/31/46) 13 RUE MADELEINE James Cagney Annabella D—95 mins. (Rev. 12/17/46)		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46) I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)		CISCO AND THE ANGEL Gilbert Roland O	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands						THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)				WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean						
Jan. 25			VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)		ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich					HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette									(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	
Feb. 8				LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall			THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15					DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman						
Feb. 22					RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean SWAMP ANGEL Mikel Conrad						NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*


THE PHOTOPLAY MAGAZINE MEDAL
WATCH THIS PAGE TOMORROW
(January 10th)
for announcement
of the
WINNERS
of the
PHOTOPLAY GOLD MEDAL AWARDS
for 1946
as chosen by the American Movie Public through the
Poll for Photoplay conducted by
Dr. George Gallup's Audience Research, Inc.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 7 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1947 TEN CENTS

Projectionists' Pay Boosted By 12-21%

New IATSE Contracts Meet Living Cost Rise

Salary increases ranging as high as 21 per cent have been negotiated by IATSE projectionists' locals throughout the country in a series of new contracts signed during the period beginning last September, according to Richard F. Walsh, 'IA' international president.

The average contract, Walsh explained, is for two years, but several three-year pacts also have been signed. Basis for members of a few of the union's local remain to be negotiated, with talks now under

(*Continued on page 6*)

NY-Jersey Owners Join on Tax Stand

Cooperation with the Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey in "mutual legislative problems" pending before the legislatures of New York and New Jersey was voted unanimously yesterday by the Independent Theatre Owners of New York at their regular meeting here. The New York group, which has members operating about 40 theatres in the neighboring state, agreed to "full cooperation" and "joint action" in matters of taxation and censorship.

Harry Brandt, president of the New York organization, was chairman of the meeting, which was addressed by Ed Lachman, president of Jersey Allied. E. Thornton Kelly, business manager of the New Jersey group, accompanied Lachman.

Hit Jurisdictional Disputes in Bill

Washington, Jan. 9.—Labor legislation introduced in the House today by Representative Case would outlaw jurisdictional disputes, such as the one which led to the present studio strike in Hollywood.

The bill will be given "priority" and quick passage of the sweeping labor measure is expected, according to capital observers.

Selznick Considers National Screen Tie

The Selznick Releasing Organization is considering the facilities of National Screen Service, along with those of several other companies, in its plans for a physical distribution set-up for SRO product, Paul MacNamara, SRO advertising-publicity director said here yesterday.

Ted Jones Heading His Own Company

DALLAS, Jan. 9.—Ted Jones has resigned as division manager of Griffith Theatres to head his own company. Associated with late R. E. Griffith for approximately 25 years, Jones has managed and operated theatres throughout the Southwest, including Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. He has now organized Jones Enterprises, Inc., which recently purchased

(*Continued on page 7*)

Story Offices Here Bought 83 Items

Swimming through a flood of books, plays, short stories and originals tailored for the screen, the Eastern story departments of the major companies handled "an imposing total of approximately 27,000 manuscripts" last year, outdistancing the 1945 total by from 70 to 100 per cent, according to a

(*Continued on page 7*)

Day to Push Bidding Plan

The "meat" of the Joseph P. Day plan for controlling competitive film bids, which was presented in an *amicus curiae* brief last October, has been incorporated by the New York Federal District Court in its final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, and a workable system of handling bids can be devised under the terms of the decree, according to spokesmen for the Day auctioneering company.

The Day interests, it is understood, now are going ahead with preparations to again suggest that the industry adopt a uniform system of handling competitive bids, with a central clearing house set up in each exchange city to advertise for and re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Schine Appeal Move Cites Equity Case

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—In a 23-page petition for rehearing of its appeal filed with the U. S. Supreme Court today by attorney Willard S. McKay, Schine Chain Theatres points to the New York Federal Court's refusal to order divestiture in the Paramount, et al, equity case as basis for one of many "substantial questions" said to be involved in the monopoly decision rendered against Schine by the Buffalo Federal District Court. The latter court has ordered a realignment of the Schine circuit with divestiture of many of its theatre properties.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Arbitration To Continue Till March 1

To Maintain 31 Boards And Accept New Cases

The industry's 31 local arbitration tribunals will continue to accept new cases up to March 1 under a decision made yesterday by the American Arbitration Association after consultation with attorneys and representatives of the five major distribution companies which bear the costs of maintaining the tribunals.

The decision means that the industry arbitration system will continue to function without change at least until March 1. It has not been decided yet whether normal operation of the tribunals will be extended for another 30 days beyond March 1 in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court from the New York District

(*Continued on page 6*)

Forum May Wait on High Court Appeals

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 9. — Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, said today that while he is in favor of immediate work toward establishment of a Motion Picture Forum to hear and endeavor to adjust internal industry disputes, he is of the opinion that the Forum should not begin its activities until the Supreme Court has decided whatever appeals may be filed by par-

(*Continued on page 6*)

British Films Scarce But Potent in Theatres There

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 9.—British product outstripped Hollywood offerings at this country's box-offices during the past year, according to a nationwide theatre survey made following the Board of Trade's announcement that 1946 saw 339 "foreign" pictures, 93 British "long" films and 120 reissues offered to the public.

Included in the "foreign" category were 20 subjects emanating from France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark. Thus, exhibitors had available to them 419 American-made films and 113 British, the respective figures for 1945 being 395 and 121.

The total number of full length British features ran around 60, with 40 only rating top bracket. The bulk of the offerings were those "featurettes" exhibits barely exceeding 3,000 feet.

Although British product ranked first in the box-office race, RKO Radio's "The Bells of St. Mary's" came near the top. Easy winner was the slightly dubious "Wicked Lady," with that picture's outstanding success due to the joint presence of James Mason and Margaret Lockwood.

Close on the heels of "St. Mary's" came Herbert Wilcox's "Piccadilly Incident," followed in order by "The Captive Heart" (British), "Road to Utopia," "Caravan" (British),

(*Continued on page 7*)

Companies May Ask Clarification Today

The five theatre-owning defendants in the New York anti-trust case will petition the Federal Court here for clarification of certain of the provisions of the court's decree, it was reported yesterday. It is expected the move will be made today, the deadline for such action.

A motion by any of the parties requesting amended findings is held unlikely by film attorneys to be entertained by the court, if petitioned. The court has discouraged such petitions in advance by citing extreme delays which they entail.

Zukors' Golden Wedding Today

Half a century of married life will be observed today by Adolph Zukor, Paramount's board chairman, and Mrs. Zukor.

Marking the event will be a dinner at the Savoy-Plaza Hotel, here, where the Zukors make their home. Members of the family, a group of intimate friends and old associates of the Paramount founder will help the couple celebrate the occasion.

Among the Zukor associates attending the dinner will be Barney Balaban, Paramount president; Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution; Austin C. Keough, vice-president, who heads the legal department; Leonard Goldenson, vice-president in charge of theatre operations; Ed Weisl, a member of the company's board; Louis Phillips of the home office legal staff; George Weltner, president of Paramount International, and the following: Jesse Lasky, Joseph and Nicholas Schenck, Jack Goetz, Ben Moss and William Gaxton. Lasky and Joseph Schenck have come East from the Coast expressly for the occasion.

Others who will be on hand will be Eugene Zukor, Paramount studio talent executive, son of the Zukors; Mrs. Mildred Z. Loew of New York, their daughter, and Adolph Zukor II, Eugene's son.

Adolph Zukor was married to Lottie Kaufman in Chicago on January 10, 1897, eight years after his arrival in this country from Hungary, where he was born on Jan. 7, 1873.

Disney Net Down to $199,602 for 1945

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Net income of Walt Disney Productions was $199,602, after all charges, for the fiscal year ended Sept. 28, 1946, compared with $350,532 in 1945, president Roy O. Disney announced today.

Net income in 1946 was equal, after provision for preferred dividends accumulated during year but not paid, to 26 cents a share on 652,840 common shares outstanding as of Sept. 28. For the 1945 fiscal year, net income after a similar provision for preferred dividends was equal to 31 cents share on 380,000 common shares then outstanding, Disney said.

As of Sept. 28, there were 18,580 shares of six per cent ($25 par value) preferred stock outstanding, against 155,000 shares the year before.

Grant Off to Coast Court for Pickford

Arnold Grant, attorney for Mary Pickford, will leave here tomorrow for Los Angeles to file answers on or about Jan. 20 at the Superior Court of that city in the case brought against Miss Pickford and Charles Chaplin by David O. Selznick. The latter's suit against United Artists similarly is pending in the Los Angeles Federal District Court.

Personal Mention

ARTHUR M. LOEW, president of Loew's International, will leave here tomorrow by plane for Culver City.

•

W. G. MEIER, manager of the Drive-In Theatre, Savannah, is in Havana; JACK ELWELL, general manager of the Drive-In circuit, is making a trip through the circuit, and L. A. DEAN, executive of the company, has returned to Atlanta from San Francisco.

•

NELSON TOWLER, PRC Atlanta branch manager, and EDDIE ADDISON, publicity representative for Eagle-Lion, have returned to Atlanta from Birmingham. ADDISON left for Austin, Texas, thereafter.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, has returned to Florida to resume a vacation interrupted by the New York decree.

•

JEAN DALRYMPLE, executive assistant in the East to LESTER COWAN, has left here for the Coast to confer with COWAN and MARY PICKFORD.

•

HAL ROACH, BEEBE DANIELS and "DOC" MARTIN will celebrate Jan. 18 birthdays at a party at Roach's Hollywood home.

•

BEN ADLER, New York industry advertising consultant, has returned to his office after a month of sick leave.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave Charlotte today for Atlanta.

•

CALVIN C. LEEDER has been transferred by Warner Bros. from Cincinnati to Atlanta as office manager.

•

RIN TIN TIN, III, and his owner-trainer, LEE DUNCAN, are expected here shortly from California.

•

GABRIEL PASCAL, British producer, now in Hollywood, is expected to return to New York next week.

•

WILLIAM SHARTEN, Cleveland district manager for Eagle-Lion, was in Albany, N. Y., this week.

•

RALPH MCCOY, Eagle-Lion special sales representative in Atlanta, is in Charlotte.

•

H. SPEARS, general manager of Bailey's theatres, Atlanta, is in Miami.

•

MOE KERMAN of Favorite Films left here today for Hollywood.

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, MATTHEW FOX, JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN and MAURICE A. BERGMAN, Universal executives, have left here for the Coast.

•

JACK SAWYER, Malco office manager at Memphis, and MRS. SAWYER are the parents of a son, JOHN KENDALL SAWYER.

•

JACK CALLOWAY, formerly with Warner Bros. in Atlanta, will now handle Florida and Southern Georgia territory for PRC.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern Exchanges, Atlanta, has returned there from Charlotte.

•

BOB TATUM, formerly with Chicago and Southern Airlines, has been named a Universal booker at Memphis.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association president, is expected in Hollywood Monday from Washington.

•

JAMES S. BURKETT, Monogram producer, and ALFRED NOYES, author, will leave here for England in February.

•

CHARLES KESSNICK, with M-G-M in Atlanta, has been visiting friends on Memphis film row.

•

AL M. HILL, RKO home office representative, is visiting the Memphis exchange.

•

RICHARD LIGHTMAN, Malco executive, has returned to his office after an operation.

•

PAUL M. GLISSON, 20th-Fox office manager at Memphis, is in New Orleans.

•

HERBERT J. YATES, Republic president, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

GROVER PARSON, PRC sales head in Atlanta, has returned there from Charlotte.

•

GEORGE STEVENS, producer-director, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

JIMMY GILLESPIE, 20th-Fox exploiteer, is in Memphis from Dallas.

•

FRED SCHWARTZ, Century circuit vice-president, is at Lake Placid.

•

BILL WILLIAMS, 20th-Fox salesman at Dallas, is visiting Memphis.

Couple Sues 20th-Fox On 'Anna' Charges

BOSTON, Jan. 9. — Charging that portions of the film "Anna and the King of Siam" damaged their "good name, fame and credit in Massachusetts and other parts of the world," Richard Monahan and his wife, Anna Harriet Leonowens Monahan, temporarily residing in Tipperary, Eire, have entered damage suits totaling $200,000 against 20th Century-Fox.

George Hyder to Head Warner Siam Office

George Hyder has been appointed manager of the Warner Bros. office in Siam, taking over the post that had been filled temporarily by John Wedesweiler, it was announced here yesterday by Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner International. Wedesweiler will return to the sales staff in Brisbane.

Before joining Warners, Hyder was manager for M-G-M in Singapore.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
With 13 BIG STARS
in Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S SONG OF THE SOUTH IN TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HELD OVER! 1st N.Y. Showing! 'THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO' LOUIS HAYWARD BARBARA BRITTON A Columbia Picture
IN PERSON JIMMY PALMER & ORCH. Extra! JEAN CARROLL

Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts in "Cross My Heart" A Paramount Picture
In Person! THE ANDREWS SISTERS LES PAUL & HIS TRIO Extra! TONY PASTOR And Band
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"Tender...brimming with human warmth" —WALTER WINCHELL
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Darryl F. Zanuck's production of W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S
The Razor's Edge
20th Century-Fox
and Great Stage Revue!
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

McCarthy to Selznick As Executive Ass't

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9. — Col. Frank McCarthy, assistant to Byron Price, Motion Picture Association vice-president on the Coast, will join the Selznick Releasing Organization next month as executive assistant to David O. Selznick. The post will be a newly-created one.

McCarthy served as assistant to Gen. George C. Marshall, the new Secretary of State, when the latter was U. S. Army Chief of Staff in Washington.

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This shot is from *The Great Train Robbery* produced in 1903 by Edwin S. Porter —the film that introduced the technique of the "close-up" to the screen.

The shot that started the film editor on his way...

CRUDE as this shot seems to us now, it opened a young industry's eyes to a new way of making motion pictures—and started the film editor on his way to his present important position.

Today, working closely with director or producer, the film editor is responsible for much of a picture's continuity, its smooth flow and rhythm. On his creative understanding of theme and mood...his feeling for pace and its effect on drama...rests a large part of a picture's ultimate success.

And top-flight photographic quality, contributed by the family of Eastman motion picture films, gives the film editor the help he needs if he is to carry out his responsibility to the full.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., DISTRIBUTORS

FORT LEE • CHICAGO • HOLLYWOOD

Photoplay-Gallup Poll Picks 'Bells'

Ingrid Bergman, Bing Crosby and "The Bells of St. Mary's" are the nation's most popular actress, actor and motion picture for 1946, according to Dr. George Gallup's Audience Research poll conducted for *Photoplay* magazine. Gold Medals will be presented to Crosby; Leo McCarey, producer-director of "Bells," and to Dudley Nichols, who wrote the screenplay, at an industry dinner in Hollywood's Beverly Hills Hotel on Monday, the magazine reports here. Miss Bergman, currently in New York, will receive her medal here. N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, will accept the *Photoplay* medal at the dinner in behalf of his company, which released "Bells."

This year, for the first time in the history of the *Photoplay* Gold Medal awards, the nation's top musical film will receive a gold plaque. This honor goes to 20th Century-Fox "State Fair," which was voted 1946's favorite musical picture.

"State Fair" Runner-up

"State Fair" was, additionally, runner-up to "Bells" among the "top ten" established by the poll. The others in this category in order of preference, are: "The Green Years," M-G-M; "Mildred Pierce," Warners; "Leave Her to Heaven," 20th-Fox; "Night and Day," Warners; "Anna and the King of Siam," 20th; "Spellbound," Selznick-UN; "Rhapsody in Blue," Warners; and "Love Letters," Paramount.

Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Greer Garson and Lana Turner were listed by Gallup as contenders in the "most popular actress" classification, and Gary Cooper, Bob Hope, Van Johnson and Spencer Tracy were contenders in the "most popular actor" category. These were named in alphabetical order and not in order of popularity, however.

The polls were conducted by Audience Research for *Photoplay* throughout the year among film-govers in all age, income and population brackets. This is the third successive year that Crosby has won top honors in the poll.

Bell Heads 20th-Fox Exploitation Unit

Ulric Bell, former deputy director of the Office of War Information in Hollywood, has been appointed head of a research unit which will concentrate on specialized aspects of forthcoming 20th Century-Fox campaigns in line with the company's policy of extended pre-selling and long range campaign planning, it was announced yesterday by Charles Schlaifer, advertising, publicity and exploitation director.

Prior to his OWI assignment, Bell was executive chairman of the "Fight for Freedom Committee," A former president of the National Press Club and the Gridiron Club, he was also Washington correspondent for the *Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Greek Aid Meet Today

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and advertising-publicity and sales executives of the various companies will meet today at the Hotel Astor to map out a national campaign for funds to assist the orphaned children of Greece.

National Industry-UN Group Expected Soon

Appointment of a national industry committee to cooperate with the United Nations' motion picture program is expected to be worked out in the near future following conferences between Jean Benoit-Levy, director of the film and visual information division of the UN's department of public information, who has just returned from Europe, and company executives including, possibly, Eric Johnston, MPA president.

With committees already named by the industry in a number of other countries, the UN official declares he is anxious to see the set-up completed in the U. S., the home of the organization. As for the U. S. film companies, their readiness to cooperate remains assured, but Johnston is understood to be awaiting clarification of Benoit-Levy's specific desires in the matter, according to an industry spokesman.

The UN general assembly has granted an appropriation of $450,000 for "motion picture supplies and services" during 1947, and its film division is planning a series of pictures telling the story of the organization's progress to date and of the prospects for permanent peace, and to be shown throughout the world. Distribution of the product is one of the problems which the projected industry committee may be asked to help work out.

Colo. Session Opens; See Films Unharmed

Denver, Jan. 9.—The Colorado legislature is now in session and theaters are not expected to be a target for any adverse action. With the state treasury in good shape the only new taxes proposed include an additional gasoline tax for roads and a severance tax on oil.

State Building Code Draft Due Feb. 15

Proposals for a New York State building code, the result of a joint legislative committee headed by Senator William Condon, will probably be submitted by the end of this month, although it is not due until Feb. 15, according to a spokesman for the committee. Drafting of a new code will not be finished until 1948, he added.

At the same time, it was learned that hearings of separate proposals for a code to be drawn up by the State Labor Department's Board of Standards and Appeals have not yet been scheduled. The department began outlining its suggestions more than two years ago, and it is believed that its program would also have to be handed to the state legislature by Feb. 15 to be considered.

A major difference between the two proposals, reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 27, is that the Condon code would apply either on a mandatory or recommendation basis to all New York cities, including those which have codes and enforcement agencies, while the Labor Department's code would be inoperative in the latter cities. In addition, the legislative committee's plan includes specification of building materials, whereas the other plan does not.

Heppner Heads Press Photographers' Fete

For the 15th consecutive year, Joseph Heppner of Metropolitan Photos will be chairman of the talent committee for the 18th annual entertainment and dance of the Press Photographers Association of New York, which will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Feb. 7.

Heppner will stage the entire show, and the music again will be furnished by Eli Dantzig for both the show and dancing.

'Devil's Hand' Screening

"The Devil's Hand," French film directed by Maurice Tourneur, will be trade screened at the Preview Theatre here today. Distinguished Films is distributing the film in the U. S. The picture will have a twin American premere at Brandt's Apollo, New York, and Brandt's Atlantic Playhouse, Brooklyn, following the current engagement of "Les Miserables," also a Distinguished release.

Delay WB Overseas Building Program

Due to uncertainties in the foreign situation, plans of Warner Brothers for the addition of theater holdings in other countries are temporarily at a standstill except for projects which have been under way for some time.

New houses for Warners are under construction in Havana and Mexico City, and the company owns a location in Sydney, where it is planned to build a deluxe run when conditions permit.

Only other foreign holdings at present are the Central Theater, Lima, Peru, and the San Jorge Theater, Bogota, Colombia, both leased, and the Warner Theater, London, which is owned outright. In addition. Warners have a 37½ per cent stock interest in the ABC circuit in Great Britain.

Goldwyn, Donovan in Bellevue Center Drive

Samuel Goldwyn, Harold Russell of the cast of Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives," and others from the industry will be present at the New York University Bellevue Medical Center, here, this afternoon for a newsreel, press and radio demonstration of the progress made in rehabilitating patients.

The event is in connection with the Center's $2,500,000 drive for a "Rehabilitation Institute," which is being launched by a committee under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan.

To Discuss Decree At Mono. Meeting

Taking cognizance of authoritative legal opinion that those companies which were not parties to the New York equity suit—such as Monogram, Producers Releasing and Republic—will be governed by the provisions of the Federal Court's decree, if sustained, Monogram executives, managers and franchise holders are expected to devote a portion of their St. Louis convention to discussion of the decree and its bearing on the company's operations, vice-president Edward Morey said here yesterday before departing for St. Louis. The meeting, which will be attended by some 50 franchise holders and sales representatives, will get underway at the Coronado Hotel tomorrow and continue through Sunday.

Morey acknowledged that his company and others which were not parties to the suit "are bound to be governed" by a sustained decree. MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported yesterday that many of the lawyers connected with the industry suit are in agreement on this point.

The Monogram meeting, specifically called for review and discussion of sales policies—particularly in connection with the forthcoming release of "It Happened on Fifth Avenue"—will be attended by the following company executives, in addition to Morey: president Steve Broidy, general sales manager Morey Goldstein, Monogram-International president Norton V. Ritchey, director of sales Jack Schlaifer, Eastern sales manager Arthur Greenblatt, Eastern district manager Nat Furst, and contract manager Si Borus.

ATA and US Stand Pat on Intervention

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The American Theatres Association will continue its policy against taking any position on theatre divorcement in its efforts to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit, Thurman Arnold, ATA counsel, said here today. Arnold added that the association will appeal the lower court's denial of its "direct intervention" petition.

At the Department of Justice, Robert Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, contends that the Government will continue to oppose any effort of direct intervention, but will agree to briefs submitted as *amicus curiae.*

Arnold pointed out that it would not be possible for ATA to deal in any aspect of the case other than competitive bidding because no other phase of the suit was discussed in its original brief to the New York court.

Assaults Checker, Fined

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 9.—Following a change in plea from innocent to guilty in municipal court at Red Wing, Minn., on charges of assaulting a checker, Judge Francis H. Watson placed a fine of $25 and $43 costs against Jerry Silvers, Cannon, Cannon Falls, it was revealed this week.

Silvers was charged with assaulting Robert Thyr, Minneapolis, checker for the Willmark agency, handling the account of M-G-M.

Theatremen Await Building Go-ahead

While exhibitors indicate their "short-term pessimism" and "long-term optimism" for theatre construction and renovation over recent measures toward easing construction bars, reports from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents attest that plans abound which might well burst into a general expansion throughout the country once materials and manpower become available.

An indication of the difficulties besetting theatremen was carried yesterday by MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Entangled in a web of barriers, ranging from federal restrictions to a dearth of labor and sectional shortages, visiting theatre operators and New York distribution executives expressed their hopefulness about the situation in the future. They also asserted that the abundance of projects is an index to the faith of the industry in continued prosperity during 1947.

Reporting on the progress of plans and actual accomplishments, field correspondents show that, while still sporadic, an upsurge in construction is in the making throughout the nation. Among the reports, in addition to those from California, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts and Maryland which appeared yesterday, are the following:

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio, Jan. 9. — The Gorden Theatre, dark since it was damaged by fire four years ago, will be raszed and the site used for a new theatre and stores, to cost $350,000, it has been announced by Mrs. Mary Gordon, owner of the property. In revealing her plan to construct a 750-seat theatre equipped to handle plays and vaudeville, as well as motion pictures, Mrs. Gordon said it would be a memorial to her late husband, William Gordon, founder of the house. The house will be operated under a long-term lease by William F. Bein, head of National Theatre Supply's branch at Cincinnati.

$1,000,000 Amusement Center Projected in Santa Clara

SANTA CLARA, Cal., Jan. 9. — As soon as building materials are available, construction will begin on a $1,000,000 multiple amusement enterprise planned by M. Naify of T. and D., Jr., Enterprises, on a 75-acre site adjacent to this city. A drive-in theatre, restaurant, market, bowling alleys and several other sports and recreation buildings are contemplated.

Mann to Expand Modesto Theatre with 4 Stores

MODESTO, Cal., Jan. 9. — George Mann of Redwood Theatres, announces that he will spend more than $225,000 for remodeling and enlarging of his State Theatre, here. The house, one of the largest in Mann's circuit, will institute the multiple amusement plan in the Redwood Theatres. Included in the expansion process will be the construction of four retail stores.

Orange Cove Theatre Gives Town Its First House

ORANGE COVE, Cal., Jan. 9.—Debut of the Cove Theatre, owned and operated by John L. Terrill, recently presented this town with its first motion picture house. The theatre, which was constructed at an estimated cost of $60,000, seats 508. Terrill also owns the Orosi Theatre in Orosi, which he opened 18 months ago.

Plans $80,000 Drive-in Theatre in Visalia, Cal.

VISALIA, Cal., Jan. 9.—With plans completed for his new $80,000 drive-in theatre, here, Robert L. Lippert announces that he will get construction under way immediately, in order to be able to meet an April opening. The theatre will have a capacity of 400 cars.

Television Sponsor Favors 'Pick-ups'

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9. — Sears, Roebuck & Co. has plans to sponsor a series of remote pickups of local events, beginning with the Mummers' parade on Wednesday, over Philco television station WPTZ. M. Z. Kissileff, representaing the sponsor, said: "We consider remote pick-up telecasts, direct from the scene, to be one of the most interesting forms of sight-and-sound programming."

Contract Set by WOR For Video Station

A contract for construction of a foundation and towerbase for radio station WOR's television station in Washington has been let to Davis, Wick and Rosengarten, it was announced yesterday by J. R. Poppele, vice-president in charge of engineering of Bamberger Broadcasting Service. Call letters of the video station will be WWBR, he said.

Nine Join Mutual

Nine additional stations have joined Mutual Broadcasting, bringing the network's total to 377, according to Carl Haverlin, vice-president in charge of station relations.

The new affiliates are: WATZ, Alpena, Mich.; KCIL, Houma, La.; WICY, Malone, N. Y.; WHAR, Clarksburg, W. Va.; WQUA, Moline, Ill.; WMBN, Petoskey, Mich.; WGNS, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; KSTT, Davenport, La., and WQBC, Vicksburg, Miss.

See Video Expansion

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 9. — Expansion of television set production and the establishment of finer video programs are forecast for 1947 by G. E. Markham, manager of stations WRGB, WGY and WGFM, here, and by B. J. Rowan, director of broadcasting and television for General Electric. The two likewise predicted that more FM radio will be forthcoming.

New Television Station

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 9. — Construction on a transmitter for the new television station, WLWC, is proceeding and it will soon be installed in the LeVeque-Lincoln skyscraper in the downtown theatre district. J. A. McDonald, television engineer for Cincinnati station WLW, is superintending construction.

Cosgrove to Speak

R. C. Cosgrove, president of the Radio Manufacturers Association, will speak Friday, Jan. 24, before the radio luncheon group of the American Marketing Association, on the subject of "Trends in AM, FM and Television." The luncheon will be in the Hotel Sheraton, New York.

Century Radio Show

Century Theatres has completed negotiations with station WNEW here for a half-hour radio show, called "Show Business," which will be heard every Sunday evening, Edward Schreiber, advertising publicity director of Century announces. The show will trace the lives of top entertainment figures of the past and present.

B'klyn Building Will House Federal Studio

Acquisition of the former home of the Brooklyn Elks, in downtown Brooklyn, for conversion into a motion picture studio for Federal Studios has been announced by Jack Goldberg, president of Herald Pictures, parent organization of Federal. Contracts for the construction have been awarded and work is expected to be completed by the end of June, he added.

The new plant will have three sound stages. Plans include use of an entire floor for television. In addition to an up-to-date commissary and office space, the building will have a preview theatre.

Joseph Moran Named

Joseph A. Moran, associate director of the radio department of Young and Rubicam, has been appointed a vice-president of the agency, S. S. Larmon, president, announces. Moran jointed Young and Rubicam in 1934 as a writer in the radio commercial department. He later became manager of the department. He was named associate radio director in 1944.

Three Are Chartered At Albany, N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 9. — Arrow Pictures Corp. has been incorporated to conduct a motion picture business in New York; Incorporators are: A. Joseph Handel, Anna Globes and Mae Lynch, New York. Handel was incorporating attorney.

American Screen Test and Film Corp. has been incorporated to conduct a film business in New York; incorporators are: Herbert Labovici, Regina Kast and Harold D. Safir, 39 Cortlandt St. Arkin, Lobovici & Kotler, were incorporating attorneys.

Winet Color Laboratories, Inc., has been incorporated to deal in photographic prints, in New York; incorporators are: Irving Brass, Samuel Adelsberg and Max Spivak, New York. Jacob W. Friedman was incorporating attorney.

Manta-Rose Extends Group Insurance

CHICAGO, Jan. 9. — The Manta and Rose Circuit, operating 29 theatres in Indiana and Illinois, has inaugurated a group insurance plan covering some 500 employes, total cost of which is to be borne by the circuit.

Under the plan, theatre employes are now covered for accident and sickness weekly benefits and life insurance; employes' hospital expenses, and the entire cost of dependents' hospitalization.

For dependents of employes, the circuit will pay $4.00 daily hospital expenses, $20 special hospital charges, and $150 surgical fees.

SIMPP Committee Will Study Decree

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9. — SIMPP President Donald Nelson said tonight the organization will set up a committee to study the effect of the government decree on independents, after which decision will be made whether again to seek entry as *amicus curiae* when the case goes before the Supreme Court.

Nelson's statement, which followed an SIMPP membership meeting, said in part, "because our members distribute through some of the eight defendants, restraints imposed on the market by the court will seriously hamper marketing of pictures by independent producers who were not defendants in the case and who had no part in collusion. The decree changes radically the marketing practices of distributors.

Restraints Undetermined

"We are not yet able to determine the full extent to which the independent producer will be hampered by these restraints. To study all the changes produced by the decree, we are planning to set up a special organization within the Society. This organization also will watch application of the decree, so that we can be sure interests of the independent producer are not jeopardized. Most members of the society believe divorcement of theatres is the only answer to the correction of monopolistic practices within the industry. The independents feel, however, that noncompetitive ownership of first run theatres in local areas prevents our pictures from being shown to the public on a basis of merit."

Nelson said the special organization mentioned will follow all independent pictures as they play, with respect to prices obtained, playing time, clearance, and to make the information steadily available to all members.

Collective Handling

SIMPP members today also approved Nelson's proposals for collective handling of several matters now dealt with individually by producers, patterning procedure on the experience with an orchestra formed year ago to remain in steady employment and to rotate services between producers. This was the upshot of the Petrillo contract with majors, which placed independents at disadvantage.

Among the additional matters, SIMPP will handle, collectively, with an enlarged staff, will be permanent sets, props, publicity, purchasing, raw materials, radio spot announcements and outdoor advertising space, with the bulk contracting reducing costs to individual producers, who will share expense and benefits.

Nero films, Bing Crosby Productions, Story Productions, California Pictures, Hal Roach and Sidney Buchman Productions were added to the SIMPP membership.

McCarey Signs Lewis

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Leo McCarey has contracted Sinclair Lewis to come to Hollywood to write the original and screenplay for his next Rainbow production, "Adam and Eve," based on a McCarey idea, with two principals the only human actors in the cast.

Ireland's First Studio Announced in Dublin

By TOM SHEEHY

Dublin, Jan. 9. — Plans to build the first studio in this country were announced here today by Richard Bingham, who will be managing director of a new company, Mercury Films, while his associate, Brian Hurst, will be a member of the board of directors. Hurst has bought Gormanstown Castle, outside Dublin, as offices, and the studio will be built on the 125-acre site there.

First production will be Sean O'Casey's "Shadow of a Gunman," which Hurst last week announced had been acquired by J. Arthur Rank. Mercury's backers have not been made known.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

court's decree in the industry antitrust suit. The decree permits a further stay of 30 days from March 1 on all phases of the decree on which appeals are taken. Presumably, advantage will be taken of the additional stay only in the event an appeal is taken to the Supreme Court on that phase of the decree which terminates the industry arbitration system.

The decree directed that the arbitration system be terminated and its tribunals liquidated except for complaints pending before the local tribunals and the appeal board. Originally, this gave rise to the question whether the boards could continue to accept new complaints during the 60-day stay of execution of the decree granted by the court. The consultations subsequently held resulted in the decision that the boards may continue to accept new cases and remain in full operation at least until March 1.

No New Cases

No new cases have been filed with any of the 31 boards since Dec. 31, when the decree was handed down.

As reported earlier, there are 33 complaints on file in nine local tribunals and 2 appeals are pending before the appeal board. Had a decision been made that new cases could not be accepted by the boards during the 60-day stay of the decree, immediate liquidation of the 22 boards without cases before them would have been in order. The nine remaining boards and the appeal board would then have been liquidated as rapidly as the litigations were completed.

In terminating arbitration, the court commended the work of the system and "strongly recommended" that the same or a similar system be continued in the industry "in order to avoid cumbersome and dilatory court litigation." Obstacles to continuation of the system are regarded by many distribution and legal authorities as too numerous, however, for that to be very likely.

New Station in Georgia

ROME, Ga., Jan. 9.—Dean Covington, state representative of Floyd County, and J. W. Trommerhauser, have started operation of their new radio station, WROM.

M. P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

ties to the New York anti-trust suit.

Levy, who is scheduled to discuss organization of the Forum with Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, in St. Louis on Jan. 21, said that he would endeavor to obtain the advance views of distribution company executives on the proposed Forum in advance of the St. Louis meeting and that the results of that effort might determine how far it would be practicable to proceed at this time with the organizing work.

It was pointed out that a large amount of organizing work would be involved in establishing the new organization and that, even if a start were to be made immediately, the Forum might not be in readiness for full operation by the time the Supreme Court appeals had been disposed of.

Wehrenberg, originator of the idea for the Forum, said earlier this week that he favored an immediate start without waiting for Supreme Court decisions and that he regarded the organizing work as MPTOA's "responsibility," since it had proposed the plan.

Special MPTOA Meeting In St. Louis Jan. 21

PHILDELPHIA, PA. Jan. 9.—Lewen Pizor, chairman of the board of directors of MPTOA, today announced that a special meeting of unaffiliated members of the board and of state and regional unit heads will be held in St. Louis Jan. 21 for a complete discussion and analysis of the final decree and for the formulation of MPTOA's plans with regard to it, including policy with regard to appearing for the independent unaffiliated members in the Supreme Court as *amicus curiae* in event that an appeal is taken by the Government or any or all defendants.

The meeting will also have before it for immediate consideration a decision as to the formation of the national exhibitor-distributor forum, of which Eric Johnston has agreed to be moderator. Herman M. Levy, general counsel, will be present at the meeting and will go from there to address a luncheon meeting of the Kansas-Missouri Theatre Owners Association on Jan. 22.

Projectionist' Pay

(*Continued from page* 1)

way for that purpose, the 'IA' chief added.

Throughout areas where the pay of projectionists heretofore has been relatively high, the increases have been less sharp than in territories where the past pay has been lower, Walsh declared, explaining that some of the pacts call for a 12 per cent boost, others 15 per cent and others 18 per cent. The highest upgrading, it is understood, went to workers in the South.

Walsh said that the increases, in line with recent rises in living costs, were negotiated without a great deal of opposition. As in the past, the "IA" followed the policy of leaving the talks mainly to representatives of the locals, which enjoy a large measure of autonomy. Thomas J. Shea, assistant international president, served as consultant in connection with the contracts.

Schine Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

The statement reads: "While the (New York) court found these defendants (the eight film companies) to have violated the Sherman Act, and while the number of theatres operated by them by comparison makes appellants' interests seem insignificant, the court refused to order divestiture."

This new petition and statement constitute an elaboration of Schine's first appeal document which the Supreme Court rejected as being not in compliance with the court's rules.

Schine further questions the "propriety" of requiring the sale of theatres which were not shown by the evidence to have any relation to, or to have any part in, any restraint of trade or commerce or monopolization of, or attempt to monopolize trade of commerce." The Buffalo court's decree, Schine goes on, is "absolutely arbitrary" so far as it concerns divestiture, and cites as an example the provision that Schine relinquish one of its two theatres in Cumberland, Maryland, although, it is stated, the acquisition of the second house in that town was approved by the court.

"Action Unjustified"

Schine asserts that "there is nothing in the record in the case" to justify the Buffalo court's action, adding that the provisions of the order itself show the Court "acted upon an incorrect and improper theory of relief in deciding upon this type of decree rather than upon any basis of fact appearing in the record."

Schine indicts as a "clear abuse of discretion" the court's ordering the appointing of a trustee to sell the appellants' property. Here, as in other "substantial questions" which Schine sees involved in the case, precedents are cited. Also questioned is the propriety of enjoining J. Meyer Schine, Louis Schine and John A. May as individuals.

The petition takes issue with the Federal Court's accepting as evidence communications between employes of the distributing companies and holds that such admissions as evidence prejudiced the appellants considerably.

Southern Owners Object to Decree

ATLANTA, Jan. 9.—Exhibitors in this area are in agreement that the New York decree in the industry antitrust suit is impossible of obedience, is unworkable, and that the industry could not possibly live under its terms.

They agree also that, while it is well within the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts to find that specific corporations have been guilty of the violations of specific federal statutes, it does not follow that a court may define an exact method of doing business for any industry.

Exhibitors here are further in agreement that the enforcement of this decree would have a paralyzing effect on the industry.

Video Talk for SMPE

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—William Eddy, director of television for the Balaban and Katz station, WBKB, discussed "Recent Advances in Television," at the monthly meeting of the Midwest section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers here today.

Day Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

ceive bids. This arrangement, as the Day plan envisions it, would largely eliminate the danger of charges of collusion and would, moreover, relieve both the Department of Justice and the distributors of much inconvenience during the government's policing of the decree, its spokesmen claim.

The court's provisions whereby the distributors would notify exhibitors, 30 to 60 in advance, of the date when bids would be received, with availability and clearance stated; also, whereby bids would be returnable within 15 days after a notice goes out, are said to be among the decree features generally in line with the auction company's proposal. Eliminated in the decree, however, was the Day proposal that disputes as to the highest bid be subject to arbitration. Day interests feel that arbitration should be a part of the machinery and should be set up under the auspices of the Motion Picture Association, thus carrying out the court's plea that work done by the arbitration tribunals set up under the old consent decree be continued on a voluntary basis.

Bid Reconciliation

Some advocates of the Day plan, while feeling that the New York Federal Court might well be asked to revise the competitive-bidding decree provisions in certain minor respects, are understood to hold that no great bar to workability exists in the latitude the judges have allowed with regard to the form in which the bids may be expressed. They hold that a percentage bid and a flat bid can be satisfactorily reconciled by considering the established average gross of a theatre making an offer in percentage terms. As further clarification, they suggest, the court might be asked to agree that, when a percentage bid is accepted, a minimum equal to the highest flat bid obtained be written into the contract.

Under the original Day plan, however, the distributors would have been at liberty to eliminate, prior to asking for bids, those houses which they deemed to be not "of a size, location and equipment adequate to yield a reasonable return to the licensor" as allowed by the decree. Theatres thus excluded at the outset would have been free to carry any grievances to arbitration. Proponents of the Day plan are understood to be hopeful, still, that the court might be persuaded to allow this procedure.

Johnston Itinerary

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9. — Eric Johnston, who arrives Sunday night, will address studio and production executives Monday noon at a luncheon on observations made during his trip abroad. Monday afternoon he will preside at a formal meeting of directors of the Association of Motion Picture producers. He flies to San Francisco Monday night or Tuesday morning to attend a meeting of the Bank of America Board. He is a member.

'Duel' 5 Aid 'Dimes'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9. — Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotten, Gregory Peck, Lionel Barrymore and Dimitri Tiomkin, the four stars and musical director, respectively of David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" have transcribed a half-hour broadcast for the 1947 "March of Dimes" campaign which gets underway Jan. 14.

Interfaith Council Drops Olive Branch

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—The Los Angeles Interfaith Council today abandoned its efforts to end the studio strike, declaring in part: "We find that the contesting parties are in considerable agreement, and that the final settlement is in the hands of national and international leaders of the unions involved."

Story Offices

(*Continued from page* 1)

survey which will appear today in *Motion Picture Herald.*

Although publishers issued about 7,000 books in 1946 and while the New York legitimate stage offers about 100 plays annually, only 75 books and eight plays were purchased for adaptation to the screen, the magazine adds.

All the eastern story heads agreed 1946 was a good publishing year, but a poor one for literary quality and, consequently, for screen appeal. Partly, it was explained, the war was to blame for this dearth of high-standard material.

Toward the end of the year the stream of war books ebbed and reconversion and occupation problems were brought into focus. At the same time, the realization of the problems and peace and the responsibility that went with victory seemed to have affected the public's taste. It is generally agreed there is a trend toward the serious, toward films with significant themes and motives.

To encourage budding young writers whose first chapters have shown promise, many companies now are subsidizing authors. While this had been done before, 20th Century-Fox was the first to start placing options on unfinished work. Usually the author is paid so much a week until the book is finished. Then he is either paid a certain agreed sum for the screen rights and the option is picked up or other arrangements are made according to contract.

M-G-M bought a Libby Block magazine article, two originals, "A Family for Jock," by Margery Kinnan Rawling, and "What Venus Knew" by Louis Bromfield, and one radio script.

Decision Reserved In Martina Case

BUFFALO, Jan. 9. — Federal Judge John Knight today reserved decision on a defense motion for a bill of particulars in triple suits started several months ago by three national film distributors against eight Western New Yorkers doing business as Martina Theatres and Martina Circuit.

The motion was argued by Attorney James O. Moore, Sr., representing the Martina group, and opposed by William B. Mahoney, attorney for Universal Film Exchanges, Inc., RKO-Radio Pictures Inc., and Loew's Inc.

Shea's Brother Dies

NEWPORT, R. I., Jan. 9.—Funeral services will be held at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church here Saturday for Joseph Shea, 38, brother of Frank Shea, office manager of March of Time in New York. Shea died here yesterday.

British Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

"Anchors Aweigh," "The Corn Is Green," "Gilda," "House on 92nd Street," "The Overlanders" (British), "Appointment with Crime" (British), "Bandit of Sherwood Forest," "Kitty," "Spellbound," "Scarlet Street," "Men of Two Worlds" (British), "Courage of Lassie," "Mildred Pierce," "Spiral Staircase," "Brief Encounter" (British), "The Years Between" (British), "The Dolly Sisters," "Girl in a Million" (British) and "Leave Her to Heaven."

The country's showmen start the year with one or two anxieties. They hope that an agreed booking policy may be negotiated with the distributors. For years the unordered system of booking obtaining here has been the source of wrangles. Serious efforts are being made to set that particular house in order.

But the chief difficulty is still the paucity of product. Advices from Hollywood that major companies there propose concentrating on top bracket pictures occasion grave apprehensions this side. The new Quota is coming up for discussion and many theatre men believe that their Quota obligations will be stiffened.

Leigh Cites Need For 'Spectaculars'

The industry is overlooking one of the best advertising mediums—"spectacular" signs—according to Douglas Leigh, Broadway amusement display signs creator, who yesterday outlined the history and accomplishments of his business before a luncheon-meeting of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, held at the Town Hall Club, here. New York and some 40 other key cities in the U. S., Leigh said, can support many varied types of "action" signs that would prove to be of immeasurable advantage to exhibitors. He pointed to Chicago's Loop as a particularly "neglected" area.

Leigh predicted that ultimately theatre marquees will be animated and that such advertising will prove its value at the box-office. Television, he held, will also play an important role in display advertising. In pleading the cause of "spectacular" advertising, Leigh pointed to the success that has greeted the M-G-M dirigible, Broadway animated signs and other similar display advertising devised by him.

AMPA president Rutgers Neilson, presided at the meeting, and Harry Blair, master-of-ceremonies, introduced Leigh, the principal speaker. Others seated at the dais were: actress Marian Carr, Jesse Lasky, Sol Schwartz, Ray Connors, Monty Salmon, actor Cary Grant, Phil Williams and actor Lawrence Tierney. About 100 AMPA members and guests were present.

Rites for Mrs. Friedman

Funeral services for Mrs. Lottie Friedman, 69, mother of Chester Friedman, editor of the Managers' Round Table of the *Motion Picture Herald* were held at Park West Memorial Chapel here yesterday afternoon. Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, L. I. Mrs. Friedman died Tuesday night.

Ted Jones Heading

(*Continued from page* 1)

an interest in Arizona Theatres, formerly owned by Partnership Theatre, Inc.

Griffith Theatres was formerly affiliated with Louis P. Long in ownership of these theatres. Jones and Long will now own and operate the Arizona circuit jointly.

Jones' resignation from Griffith Theatres will take effect Feb. 2, when he will move to Los Angeles, where he will establish his residence and headquarters for operations. He is also president of Western Amusements Co., Inc., which he organized in 1944. This concern owns 21 theatres located in California, Oregon and Colorado.

U. S. Film Impacts Feared Says Benton

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—William Benton, Assistant Secretary of State, in an address here today, said cultural and political leaders of foreign nations fear the great world-wide impact of Hollywood motion pictures. Benton, addressing the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations at the Congress Hotel, said movies are being urged as a great force of democracy throughout the world but that many nations fear Hollywood.

Benton explained: "The very technical genius of Hollywood which makes its pictures sought after and beloved by the masses of the peoples of the world terrifies the scholars and intellectuals and politicians in these countries when they hear their children speaking English with an American accent, using American slang and discussing love, divorce and murder in Hollywood epigrams."

Benton added that U. S. delegates to the first general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Paris last month discovered a fear of American cultural imperialism. Benton said, "It was not a fear of American books, art, music, radio or press associations but largely the fear of Hollywood."

Benton concluded that UNESCO must succeed because on it may hang the balance of peace.

Osvaldo Urrutia, Dies

Word that Osvaldo Urrutia, Paramount International's branch manager for Peru, died Wednesday in Lima was received yesterday at the company's home office by A. L. Pratchett, Latin American division manager.

Bromfield's Mother Dies

MANSFIELD, O., Jan. 9.—Mrs. Annette Coulter Bromfield, 84, mother of Louis Bromfield, author of many novels, including a number which have been adapted to the screen, died Tuesday at her Malabar home near here.

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Photoplay Gold Medal Awards* for 1946 to

Ingrid Bergman—the nation's most popular actress

Bing Crosby—the nation's most popular actor

"The Bells of St. Mary's"—the nation's most popular picture (with miniature medals to all those receiving screen credits)

Leo McCarey—Producer-Director of the nation's most popular picture

Dudley Nichols—Writer of the nation's most popular picture

Photoplay Gold Plaque to

"State Fair" the nation's most popular Musical Movie

And Photoplay Citations to the Top Ten Pictures and Top Ten Stars

**Chosen by the American Movie Public through the Poll for Photoplay conducted by Dr. George Gallup's Audience Research, Inc.*

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 8 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1947 TEN CENTS

$147,000,000 Loss from Cut In Excise Levy

Wartime Tariff Seen Cut By New GOP Congress

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. — In his annual message to Congress on the budget, at the weekend, President Truman estimated that admission tax revenue in 1947-48 will drop to $215,000,000, from an estimated $362,000,000 for the year ending next June 30.

The President's anticipated admission tax returns for next year were described as being conservative because he has

(*Continued on page 4*)

Allied Going Ahead With Plans for Producing Features

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. — Allied States plans to go ahead with plans to contract for the independent production of 12 features for exhibition by its membership.

Plans being worked out by Irving Dollinger of New Jersey, Allied production committee chairman, will be submitted to the board of directors at a meeting here on Jan. 31.

Abram F. Myers, board chairman, disclosed that Dollinger has asked for two hours of the board's time in which to discuss production plans. A contract will be negotiated with a new producer for 12 films, guaranteeing their exhibition. Several have been

(*Continued on page 7*)

Television Solving Its Many Problems

Television is solving many of its industrial problems and the film industry may expect some "stiff competition" in a few years, the Commerce Department predicted here today in a report on industrial trends and prospects for the year ahead.

"Television is not expected to become a threat to motion pictures in 1947, but many major television problems have been solved and competition

(*Continued on page 7*)

MPA Official Hits State Dep't Film

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. — Taking sharp issue with Assistant Secretary of State William Benton's exposition of a government film program before the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations last Thursday, Joyce O'Hara, assistant to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, said there could be no meeting of industry and government minds on the subject.

O'Hara's statements were interpreted here as heralding a break between the organized industry and the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Longer Playing Films Popular

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—There is a trend toward longer playing films in Hollywood, according to a Commerce Department analysis today of industrial trends. The industry is due for another great year, according to Government experts.

Theatre receipts will hold pretty well to the levels of 1946, the Department reports.

Commenting on 16mm. films, the Department predicted that 16mm. theatres will be built in communities where no regular theatres exist.

Predicting an increase in the number of theatres, the Department said that thousands of small communities exist which are expected to support 16mm. theatres.

Visual education will get a boost in 1947, the Government said, pointing out that many firms actively engaged in the commercial film fields are entering the business of producing educational pictures.

COURT ASKED FOR DELAY ON BIDDING

ATA Says Forum OK With Reservations

Commenting on the film industry forum as proposed by Fred Wehrenberg to iron out trade differences, Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association, states that his organization would go along with the idea so long as it contributes to the welfare of the industry.

He raised the point, however, that ATA is adverse to concerning itself with trade practices, thus limiting its participation in any such conference.

Malco Circuit Seeks Individual Trials

MEMPHIS, Jan. 12.—Separate trials are sought by M. A. Lightman, head of Malco Theatres, Paramount partner, and his associates and eight distributing companies in motions filed in Federal Court in the suit brought against them by owners of six independent theatres. The suit asks damages of $2,910,600 and charges that Lightman's circuit and the companies violated the Clayton and Sherman Anti-trust acts in a conspiracy to monopolize and restrain trade in motion pictures in Memphis and this territory.

Two Years Sought for Termination of Pools; Arguments on Jan. 22

By TOM LOY and GENE ARNEEL

Postponement of competitive bidding until 90 days after a final judgment is entered in the industry anti-trust suit upon mandate of the U. S. Supreme Court, provided the case is appealed to the high tribunal, was sought by the defendants through motions filed Friday in New York Federal District Court. Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright have agreed to hold a Jan. 22 hearing on this request and several others made along with it.

Columbia, going a step beyond the other defendants, with which it joined in seeking the bidding postponement, asks a stay, for the same length of time, of the prohibition against single sales

(*Continued on page 4*)

Calls Decree Hypodermic

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 10.—While the final decree in the New York equity suit has "several points beneficial to independent exhibitors," according to Benjamin Berger, president of North Central Allied, the decree as a whole, he holds, is "only a temporary hypodermic without complete divestiture."

"Peace in this industry," Berger opines, "can be established only when the producer-distributors, who now control an overwhelming majority of key theatres in the U. S., will be com-

(*Continued on page 7*)

French Have Still to Declare a New Decree

Although official notice on the extent to which the French will press their newly-promulgated restrictions against U. S. films in that country has yet to be given, actually the edict, which was to be made effective Jan. 1, has not been applied. According to foreign market officials here who are in close contact with Paris, this gives rise to the expectation that the decree will not be too serious in effect.

On Dec. 26 the French circularized notice that an old ordinance would be revived dictating that U. S. films of more than two years in age may not be dubbed and that new pictures would have to pass through three government departments before dubbing visas could be obtained. This was viewed somewhat alarmingly by the industry here which immediately termed it a direct violation of the Blum-Byrnes film accord which, it was said, superceded the old law.

Meanwhile the U. S. State Department is said to be continuing its investigation of the overall situation.

Plans Advance for Skouras Appeal

Further plans for the industry's forthcoming appeal to adopt starving Greek war orphans through the Greek War Relief Association, in honor of Spyros P. Skouras, were formulated at a luncheon-meeting held here Friday in the Hotel Astor. Present were the heads of the advertising-publicity departments of distributors, all of whom pledged their

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

ERIC A. JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association president, will arrive here from San Francisco on Wednesday.

•

ED HINCHEY, head of Warners playdate department, who spent the latter part of last week in Philadelphia and Washington, will leave here tomorrow for Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

•

BEN MOYER of Ruthrauff and Ryan, advertising agency, has been elected treasurer of the Media Men's Association of New York.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will attend the M.P.T.O. of St. Louis meeting in that city Jan. 20.

•

FRANK MCGUIRE, Paramount home office artist, has entered Mercy Hospital, Rockville Center, Long Island, for an operation.

•

LOUIS HYMAN, vice-president and sales manager of Sol Lesser Productions, has left New York for London and Paris.

•

JOHN P. BYRNE, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, is visiting branches at Buffalo, Albany, Boston and New Haven.

•

EDWARD SCHELLHORN, Paramount studio foreign department executive, has returned to Hollywood from here.

•

STANLEY SHUFORD, Paramount advertising manager, has left here for a two-week vacation in the West Indies.

•

ARMAND DEUTSCH, president of Story Productions, left here for the Coast at the weekend.

•

HARRY KOSINER, Eastern representative for EDWARD SMALL, is in Hollywood from New York.

•

CHARLES K. STERN, assistant treasurer for Loew's, will return here today from St. Louis.

•

MR. and MRS. EDWARD G. ROBINSON are expected here today from Hollywood.

Smith Effects New Para. Field Policy

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 12. — Paramount's new policy of conducting operations from the field has been put into effect by George A. Smith, western division sales manager, who is to supervise field operations for his territory from Los Angeles. Heretofore Smith, who arrived here last week to set up his headquarters, had his office in New York.

Smith has installed Hugh Braly, former Denver district manager, as West Coast district manager, with supervision over Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Denver and Salt Lake City.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

NET results of that paper that went into the New York Federal court clerk's office as the old year went out have been 10 days of dissatisfaction and indecision—dissatisfaction with the decree and indecision over what's to be done about it.

In those 10 days practically nothing else has been discussed around home offices and, to all appearances, the endless discussions are traversing a circular route and getting nowhere. At least, there's no urgency about arriving at immediate conclusions and decisions. March 1 is quite a spell away and an appeal then will provide another breather.

Besides the first man under the wire with his appeal is a sucker. It will be up to him to pay for the printed record of the eight and one-half-year old case to put before the Supreme Court. The cost of that record will not be insignificant.

There isn't much to report as of now. Analyses and opinions of the decree are clogging every home office waste basket. Even the shoe-shine man in the Godfrey Building who, during his daily ministrations to executive footgear has heard nothing but decree talk since December 31, had an analysis of his own to show us. It begins: "It won't work, so why should you?"

We do not subscribe to any such defeatist attitude. Our own recommendation is to turn the industry over to the Attorney General's office and the Federal jurists at once and let them try to operate it under their own rules.

And let them be eyed, tried and sentenced by motion picture people willing to change places with them.

• •

From his high position among moral leaders of the world, Pope Pius XII in an address last week made reference to freedom of the screen, linking it with freedom of the press. While interpreting the concept of individual freedom, he expressed his opinion that freedom could be harmful to a community if it lacked moral restraint.

"True and genuine freedom would not be served," he said, "while licentiousness would become legal, if the press and moving pictures were permitted to uproot the moral and religious foundations of the life of a people."

This is in accord with the views held by responsible persons everywhere, in and out of the industry. It is implicit in the industry's Production Code, which encourages freedom of expression in motion pictures within those limits which stop short of violation of public morality.

• •

Fully aware of how unpopular with most exhibitors are audience collections for whatever cause, it is a source of satisfaction to many in the industry that so many theatres have enlisted to aid the 1947 March of Dimes campaign solely out of a keen and proper sense of public responsibility.

To our knowledge, no exhibitor organization is spurring or even encouraging its members to take part in this campaign, no national organization like the defunct War Activities Committee is driving them into the fold by persuasion and high pressure salesmanship, and no war fervor prevails to make the force of public opinion felt by the slacker. But thousands of theatres will be in here pitching, as always, when the Dimes drive opens tomorrow.

In the humble estimation of this department they are the salt of the industry, and the cream, too.

Many New York exhibitors have been heard to say that they, too, would participate in the drive and make collections except that the by-laws of the Metropolitan MPTO prohibit members from so doing. To those within that group who are sincere: Take another look at your organization's by-laws. You will find that if enough of you send written requests to your executive director, Gen. Rodney Smith, an exception can be made.

Get busy and write!

• •

As usual, everybody seems to be satisfied with the motion pictures of the year except the critics. While this year's crop of critics were naming their very own "bests" of the year, many if not most of them being foreign-made films, the public, as usual, was waiting patiently in line to get into the theatres showing Hollywood product, while seats were to be had at all hours where the foreign favorites played.

Just the annual reminder of the gulf that separates some motion picture critics from the motion picture audiences.

Newsreel Parade

GEN. MARSHALL, ex-Secretary Byrnes, Gen. Eisenhower and Prime Minister MacKenzie King figure in current newsreels. Also spotlighted are fires in Weehawken, N. J., New York, Tokyo and San Francisco; skiing, golf and other sports; news from Palestine and sundry other items; complete contents follow

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 39—Byrnes resigns—Marshall is new Secretary of State. Eisenhower rests in Florida. Prime Minister King of Canada becomes "first citizen" at Ottawa ceremony. Palestine refugees. Weehawken, N. J. pier fire. War Relief campaign opens. Los Angeles open golf tournament. Florida beauties display the latest in sweaters.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 237—General Eisenhower in Florida. A Palestine bright spot. $6,000,000 fire sweeps pier in Hudson. "GI" fire in Tokyo. Ski-jumping tournament.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 40—Fire threatens "GI" company in Tokyo. Florida: spotlight on Eisenhower. Art students throw biggest party of 1947. Washington: Marshall replaces Byrnes. Sports: Fishing, ski-jumping.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 42—Italy's premiere in U. S. Fires in New York, Tokyo and San Francisco. British in "wild arts" ball. Eisenhower in Miami. U. S. ski meet.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 3—Raging fire wrecks Weehawken, N. J. pier. Secretary of State Byrnes resigns—Marshall succeeds. Gen. "Ike" denies rumors that he plans to run for President in 1948. Fire destroys Quonset homes of GI's in Tokyo. Thousands of revelers revive Chelsea Arts Ball in London. Skiing thrills.

Altec Meeting in Detroit, Jan. 15-17

Altec's annual meeting of district and branch managers will be held at the Book-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Wednesday through Friday. G. L. Carrington, president, who is now enroute from Hollywood, will preside. Also enroute from Hollywood are A. A. Ward, vice-president of Altec Lansing and Ed Grigsby, Western sales representative for both Altec Service and Altec Lansing.

Going from Altec headquarters in New York are: H. M. Bessey, vice-president; E. Z. Walters, comptroller; P. F. Thomas, treasurer; E. O. Wilschke, operation supervisor; E. S. Seeley, chief engineer; M. Bender, commercial engineer; Bert Sanford, theatrical sales manager; H. S. Morris, Eastern representative for Altec Lansing.

Altec district offices will be represented by H. B. Moog, district manager, and N. L. Mower, branch manager, from Atlanta; L. J. Hacking, district manager, and R. D. Fairbanks, branch manager, Boston; R. Hilton, district manager, and R. C. Gray and O. E. Maxwell, branch managers, Chicago; W. Conner, district manager, and M. G. Thomas, branch manager, Cincinnati; F. C. Dickely, district manager, J. I. Mather, branch manager, and F. Morin, credit manager, Detroit; C. J. Zern, district manager, and G. E. Wiltse, branch manager, Dallas.

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THIS MAIN TITLE IS WINNING TOP MOTION PICTURE HONORS FOR 1946!

N. Y. Times' "Ten Best Pictures of the Year" hails 'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN,' 'HENRY V' and 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER' among the 1946 winners with Bosley Crowther awarding 'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN,' "the highest recommendation of any film of the year!"

The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures announces its choice of 'HENRY V' as the best film of 1946—and rates 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER' high on its list of the year's ten best films!

The N. Y. Critics Circle honors Laurence Olivier as "the year's best male performer" for his role in 'HENRY V'; and Celia Johnson as the "best female performer" for 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER'!

Film Daily poll of motion picture critics selects 'HENRY V' as one of the ten best pictures of the year!

Time Magazine lauds 'HENRY V' and 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER' in its choice of 1946's top motion pictures! The N. Y. Newspaper Guild awards Laurence Olivier the crown for the best motion picture performance of 1946 in 'HENRY V'!

Rose Pelswick, N. Y. Journal-American, picks 'HENRY V' and 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER' in her list of the year's ten top films! Archer Winsten, N. Y. Post, hails 'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN,' 'BRIEF ENCOUNTER,' 'HENRY V' and 'DEAD OF NIGHT,' four out of ten in his choice of 1946's best ten!

...and still more to come!

NO OTHER PRODUCING ORGANIZATION IN THE INDUSTRY CAN CLAIM SUCH UNANIMOUS RECOGNITION!

Court Asked

(Continued on page 4)

contained in the final decree handed down by the court on Dec. 31. At present, both provisions are scheduled to become effective on July 1.

The motion filed on Friday by the theatre-owning defendants—Paramount, Loew's, RKO, Warners and 20th Century-Fox—also seeks an allowance of two years in which to dissolve pooling agreements made by any of themselves "with others not parties to this action," and a similar period for terminating theatre leases existing between any of themselves and independent exhibitors.

Likewise asked by the theatre owners is an amendment to the court's judgment so that a defendant might be permitted to expand its holdings "in order to protect its investments, or in order to enter a competitive field, if such defendant shall show to the satisfaction of the court . . . that such acquisition will not unduly restrain competition." Reasonable notice of the intention to make any such acquisition would be served upon the government, which would have an opportunity to be heard in the matter, the motion proposes.

Universal Joins Plea

Universal, which joins in the request for a stay of competitive bidding, also asks modification of the ban on franchise deals, allowing such deals to be made with independent exhibitors, whom, it argues, would thus be provided with sufficient product to compete with other showmen.

One conclusion of law reached by the court should be modified, the theatre-owning defendants contend, asking that, as exhibitors, they be found in violation of the Sherman Act by "conspiring with the distributor defendants to receive discriminatory license privileges," rather than, in the court's present language, by "conspiring with the distributor defendants to discriminate against independent competitors in fixing minimum admission price, run, clearance and other license terms." This change is sought because of an alleged conflict between two of the court's final conclusions and because the opinion handed down by the judges on June 11 held that "nothing therein contained should be construed as indicating that the distributor defendants discriminated among their licensees with respect to film rentals, clearances or minimum admission prices."

Supporting their motion for the competitive-bidding stay, the defendants point out that this method of selling pictures "is very different from that now in operation" and "is strongly opposed by organizations of independent exhibitors which sought to intervene." If the ruling should go into effect on July 1 and then be modified or changed by the Supreme Court, "further changes in the method of licensing features would be necessary with further disruption to the normal course of business," the petitioners add.

Suggestion Supported

The defendants' suggested modification of the ban on theatre expansion is supported by a second quotation from the court's June 11 opinion, which, they point out, held that the divestiture provision applying to partial interests (between five per cent and 95 per cent) "shall not prevent a defendant from acquiring theatres or interests therein in order to protect its investments, or in order to enter a competitive field. . . ."

The two-year stay in terminating pooling agreements and theatre leases between defendants and independents is suggested in light of the court's failure to set a special time for compliance with that provision of its final decree. "While the defendants will act diligently to comply," their brief sets forth, "the task of dissolving pools with independents, involving, as they do, individuals and interests not parties to this action, is an involved and complicated one in some instances, and time must necessarily be consumed in dissolving them. Moreover, many of the pooled theatres have been operated for a long time by a defendant and the termination of the pools will require the owners to make other arrangements for the operation of their theatres which cannot be done in the time allowed by the decree," the argument concludes. The decree, in general, is to be effective March 1, the New York court has ruled.

Motions made by all defendants except United Artists were in the hands of the court clerk on Friday. UA, which dispatched its motion directly to the judges, is understood to join with the other defendants in their request.

Truman Submits New Treaty with France

Washington, Jan. 12.—President Truman has submitted to the Senate the double taxation treaty agreed upon by the United States and France. It is necessary for the Senate to ratify the treaty before it goes into effect.

The agreement, which will be submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for consideration, eliminates double taxes levied on the nationals of the respective countries.

Excise Levy

(Continued from page 1)

been advised that the Republican Congress does not intend to follow his recommendation to retain the wartime excise levies, including the 20 per cent tax on admissions, and, as a result of the expected rollback of the latter to its peacetime 10 per cent, a drop of $147,000,000 is expected in admission tax revenue alone.

If the Republican Congress should decide to carry out the President's request and keep the wartime levies, an entirely different picture would be placed on income from admissions. However, in his budget message, President Truman "assumed" that the Congress would not carry out his recommendation for maintaining the present higher excise levies.

Only a limited sum was requested for Government informational activities, with most appropriation requests for film and other information services being classified under "general expenditures." A breakdown of these fund requests will be made in appropriations committee hearings.

Provision Made

Provision for a proposed business census of many industrial operations was included in the budget. The census will cost an estimated $10,150,000.

State Department funds were raised by the President in order to meet increasing international commitments. The Commercial Policy Division, which handled film problems, will continue untouched. Cultural relations films may be hit by the Republican Congress.

For education and research, the President requested that the congress increase the appropriation from $71,493,844 to $85,248,095. This increase will provide for an increased use of films in education and if granted will furnish funds for a plan of cooperation in the production of educational pictures between the Motion Picture Association and the U. S. Office of Education.

The Office of Government Reports, where the motion picture division is located, would receive $599,000 if Congress decides to continue it. Funds for the OGR during this fiscal year amounted to only $224,509.

Pointing to the increasing backlog of unregistered patents at the Commerce Department, President Truman urged the lawmakers to provide more money for the U. S. Patent Office.

An increase in the Agriculture Department's information program was asked. If the President's recommendation is accepted, Agriculture would receive $708,967 next year, as compared with $671,260 this year.

Set Dual Premiere For Eagle-Lion Film

Eagle-Lion Films' "Bedelia" will have simultaneous premieres in Pennsylvania on Wednesday, Jan. 29, with a New York engagement to be announced shortly. The film, based on a novel by Vera Caspary, will open at the Senate Theatre, Harrisburg, Pa., and at the Astor, Reading. It was produced in England by John Corfield, for J. Arthur Rank. It is the first film to be distributed in America under an interchange of property between Eagle-Lion and the Rank interests.

Skouras Drive

(Continued from page 1)

complete cooperation and the aid of their entire departments to Benjamin H. Serkowich, Columbia, and S. Barret McCormick, RKO Radio, co-chairman of the publicity committee for the drive.

The purpose of the meeting, outlined by Si Fabian and Ned Depinet, who, with Jack Cohn, are co-chairmen of the drive committee, was to make plans for the campaign whereby the appeal can be dramatized most effectively to the entire industry, all members of which are being asked to participate.

Both Fabian and Depinet stressed the fact that this is to be entirely an industry matter, and that the public will not be asked to participate. Purpose of the drive is to raise, within the industry, $1,200,000 for the support for one year, of at least 15,000 Greek orphans.

Arrangements have already been made with the Greek government, through Greek War Relief, for further contributions. This sum will be used exclusively for life-saving aid, and rehabilitation of the Greek children who have been orphaned. The money will be administered by the Greek War Relief, in cooperation with the welfare department of the Greek government.

Mechanics of the drive call for a direct appeal to all organizations, within the industry, including theatres, distributing companies, Hollywood, home offices, exchanges and individuals, to "adopt" a Greek orphan for one year. The amount of money required for the support of one child for the year will be $80, to be contributed by the industry, plus $40 which the Greek Government will supply.

At the conclusion of Friday's meeting, Fabian announced that there would be another meeting tomorrow, at which distributor and exhibitor representatives will be present and additional committees named. At that time, according to Fabian, a nationwide organization will be established to bring the appeal directly to everyone. The next meeting of the advertising-publicity committee will be held on Friday, at which time a definite program will be set.

Although the dates of the drive are from Feb. 15 through March 15, present plans call for immediate action in order to get the drive underway as soon as possible.

Present at Friday's meeting were: Ned Depinet, Si Fabian, McCormick, Serkowich, Harry Buckley, Charles Schlaifer, Leon Bamberger, Sam Shain, Morris Kinzler, Ed Solomon, Hal Danson, Al Zimbalist, Max Youngstein, Hank Linet, Sam Rosen, Si Fabian, Jr., Don Gillett, Phil Laufer, Ray Murray, William Plunkert, Joseph Stahl and Stirling Silliphant.

'Screen Guide' Sold

Alex L. Hillman, president of Hillman Periodicals, has purchased *Screen Guide* from Triangle Publications. Hillman will commence publishing *Screen Guide* in April. February and March issues will continue to be published by Triangle Publications. Hillman also publishes *Movieland, Pageant, Real Story, Real Romances,* and several other publications.

Consulted Daily

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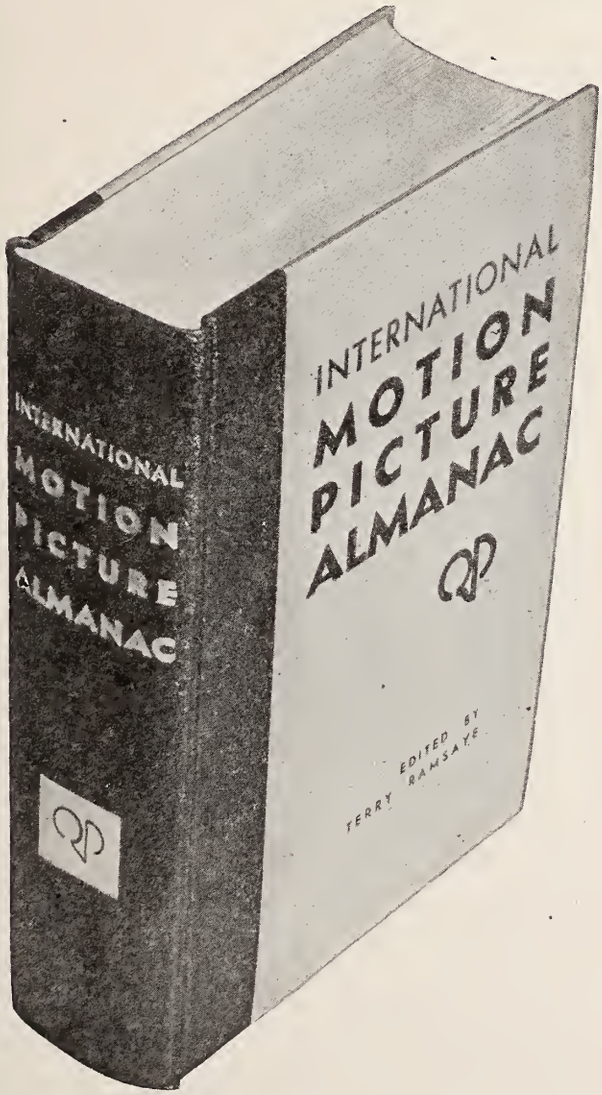

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QUIGLEY PUBLICATIONS
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK (20)

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 12

JOHN STURGES is to direct "Keeper of the Bees," Columbia's film version of the Gene Stratton Porter novel. John Haggott will produce . . . "Down Tahiti Way," story of a much-married playboy stranded in Tahiti, has been purchased by Republic from Paul Ganglin and Colbert Clark. It will be one of the studio's Trucolor features. . . . Katina Paxinou will return to Hollywood for a dramatic role in Dudley Nichols' production for RKO Radio of Eugene O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Electra."

•

Warners' two-reel subject, "A Boy and His Dog," produced by Gordon Hollingshead and directed by LeRoy Prinz, has been chosen by the American Humane Association as the official film to be used by that organization in this year's "Be Kind to Animals" campaign. . . . John Dall, who scored as the young miner in "The Corn Is Green," has been signed to a term contract by Universal-International. His first assignment will be the romantic lead opposite Deanna Durbin in "For the Love of Mary."

•

Marjorie Reynolds has been engaged by Seymour Nebenzal to replace Helen Walker, injured in an automobile accident, in his current production, "Heaven Only Knows". . . . Richard Ney will appear opposite Gene Tierney in "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," now shooting at 20th Century-Fox. . . . "Dream Girl," Elmer Rice's hit play, has been assigned to P. J. Wolfson to produce for Paramount.

•

Sidney Picker and R. G. Springsteen have been assigned to produce and direct, respectively, a series of six musical Westerns for Republic.

•

Jeffrey Bernerd has been assigned to take over production of Monogram's "Cisco Kid" series, which stars Gilbert Roland. Bernerd replaces Scott Dunlap, recently appointed executive assistant to Monogram president Steve Broidy. . . . Sol Wurtzel has signed Kent Taylor to a contract calling for his appearance in three pictures which Wurtzel will make for 20th Century-Fox release. . . . Paramount has acquired screen rights to Lionel Shapiro's first novel, "The Sealed Verdict," story of post-war Germany.

•

Claude Rains will star in Henry Blanke's next production for Warners, "The Iron Gates". . . . The first of Monogram's new "Teen-Ager" series to be produced and directed by Will Jason is titled "Getting Smart". . . . Russell Hayden has been signed by Screen Guild to appear in two outdoor features.

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Edison Centenary Scheduled by AMPA

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will hold a special luncheon, here, to honor the 100th birthday of Thomas A. Edison, inventor of the Kinetoscope, on Feb. 11, AMPA president Rutgers Neilson discloses.

Four Start Tour to Boost 'Best Years'

A nationwide tour by four personal representatives of Samuel Goldwyn will take to field members of RKO Radio, to newspaper editors, motion picture critics and to leading theatre circuits the story of "The Best Years of Our Lives." Ben Washer, Bill Ruder, M. Llewellyn Miller and Mrs. Shirley Strickler will have special messages on the New York opening, the reviews the pictures has received and the business it has done in New York, Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles, with details of the operation of the different exhibition policies, an account of the merchandising opportunities in the picture and a visual representation of the awards and tributes the picture has already received.

Working with the RKO Radio exchange heads and with exploitation representatives in the field, the Goldwyn emissaries will make plans to show "The Best Years of Our Lives" in special screenings to editors, publishers, radio station operators and personal guests of the producer. Cities to be covered during the first three-week leg of the tour, commencing today, include Denver, Omaha, Des Moines, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Oklahoma City, Dallas, Ft. Worth, New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Columbus, Miami, Atlanta, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

Enlarging Unit Aids 16mm Film Editing

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12. — A working model of a new film editing device which is said to mark a great forward stride in efficiency of editing 16mm. film has been completed by the Warner Bros. studio sound department under supervision of Col. Nathan Levinson. It has been turned over to the film editing department headed by Harold McCord for series of tests.

The machine, a modified version of standard film editing equipment, enables cutters to throw greatly enlarged images of 16mm. film on a small screen. In the old-type device, editors used a magnifying glass to expedite handling of 16mm. frames. With addition of projection lens and screen, images are enlarged to approximately 12 by 18 inches, which increases speed of handling the narrow-gauge film.

Name Dr. Courtnay Pitt

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—Dr. Courtnay Pitt has been named economist of Philco Corp., to be in charge of the division of economic research.

Zukors Are Hailed On Golden Wedding

The Adolph Zukors on Friday night celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a dinner in the Savoy Plaza Hotel, here, in company with family members and intimate friends. The number of wires, cables and letters of congratulation received has been growing well into the thousands, and the Paramount founder, Mrs. Zukor, Zukor's secretary and members of the family literally had their hands full reading the messages over the weekend.

Practically every important figure in the film business here and abroad has sent congratulatory messages. Many wires are from industry organizations, from exhibitors all over the world, and from foreign as well as American civic officials.

Among the long-time associates, friends and family members who attended the celebration dinner were: Barney Balaban, Charles M. Reagan, Austin C. Keough, Leonard Goldenson, George Weltner, Nicholas and Joseph Schenck, Jesse Lasky, Ed Weisl, Louis Phillips, Jack Goetz, Ben Moss, William Gaxton, Eugene Zukor, son of the Zukors; Mrs. Mildred Z. Loew, their daughter, Adolph Zukor II, Eugene's son, among others.

Rank Apologizes to Barred Film Critic

Paul Holt, colmunist of *The London Daily Express*, has received a personal apology from J. Arthur Rank, British producer, because a theatre owned by one of Rank's companies banned Holt from a preview last Monday, according to press dispatches received here.

The film section of the critics circle had written to Otto Bolle, London representative of 20th Century-Fox, deploring his action in "arbitrarily barring one of our members (Holt) from the press view of 'Meet Me at Dawn' at the Odeon Theatre." The letter referred to the incident as an attempt to "interfere with free criticism and liberty of expression." Holt said that Bolle had apparently objected to his criticisms of "The Razor's Edge." While Rank had nothing to do with the production of the American film, he apologized because of his ownership of the theatre concerned.

Campbell to Resign Chase Bank Post

H. Donald Campbell, one-time member of 20th-Century-Fox's board of directors, will retire as vice-chairman of the Chase National Bank after the annual meeting of shareholders on Jan. 28, Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the board, has announced.

Campbell was very active in the Chase Bank's original participation in 20th-Fox. He will continue as a director of the bank, member of the executive committee and chairman of the board's trust committee.

'Madeleine' Into Roxy

The Louis de Rochemont production, "13 Rue Madeleine," will have its premiere at the Roxy Theatre here on Wednesday, following Darryl F. Zanuck's "The Razor's Edge," which will complete an eight-week run at the house.

PRC Now Owns 31 Exchange Outlets

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12.—Producers Releasing has purchased its San Francisco franchise from Sam Sobel, Harry H. Thomas, PRC president, announced here at the weekend. This leaves the company only two exchanges shy of 100 per cent exchange ownership, with Lloyd V. Lamb's Portland and Seattle [illegible] tions being PRC's only remaining franchise outlets.

Under the San Francisco acquisition, Sobel will remain as PRC's district manager for the Far West territory, and Ralph Clark, formerly of United Artists, will become branch manager of the San Francisco exchange.

On Friday, a testimonial luncheon was given Sobel and Clark by the company at San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel. The affair was attended by theatre and circuit exhibitors of the area.

20th-Fox Art Exhibit Will Last Two Weeks

The nine original paintings, emphasizing the theme "Art in Motion Picture Advertising" and arranged by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, here, in cooperation with 20th Century-Fox, now on display in the Museum's American Wing, will be open to public examination during the next two weeks, 20th-Fox reports.

The exhibit is attracting widespread interest, according to H. V. Jayne, vice-director of the Museum. Following a private preview of the exhibit last Tuesday the show was opened to the public and art students and others have been streaming into the American Wing to inspect the paintings by Norman Rockwell, John Falter, Dean Cornwell, Robert Benney, Douglas Crockwell, Ben Stahl, Roy Spreter and Marcel Vertes. Charles Schlaifer, 20th-Fox advertising director, and Jayne collaborated in arranging the display.

Agnew in Hollywood For Selznick Talks

Neil F. Agnew, president of the Selznick Releasing Organization, is due in Hollywood today for conferences with David O. Selznick. Among the subjects to be discussed are a sales policy for "Duel in the Sun," first release of the new organization, which is being exhibited on the Coast at three theatres on a two-a-day basis.

The scarcity of Technicolor prints, due to a heavy schedule at the laboratories as a result of the jurisdictional dispute between IATSE and the Conference of Studio Unions, are holding up exhibition of the production in other cities.

Donald A. Henderson Named GPU Director

Donald A. Henderson, treasurer of 20th Century-Fox, has been elected a director of the General Public Utilities Corp., it has been announced by GPU president A. F. Tegen.

Henderson is also a director of 20th-Fox and the P. Lorillard Co.

Production in Good Start; 7 New Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Production is off to a good start, with seven new films facing cameras and eight going to cutting rooms. The shooting index holds at 42; the production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "The Crime Doctor's Vacation," with Warner Baxter, Nancy Saunders, James Bell, Mark Dennis.

Shooting: "The Corpse Came C.O.D.," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman), "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier), "The Lady from Shanghai."

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

M-G-M

Finished: "The Rich, Full Life."

Started: "The Hucksters," with Clark Gable, Deborah Kerr, Erward Arnold, Adolphe Menjou, Sydney Greenstreet.

Shooting: "Song of Love," "The Birds and the Bees," "Green Dolphin Street," "To Kiss and to Keep."

Monogram

Started: "Land of the Lawless," with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hatton, Christine McIntyre, June Harrison; "Panic," with Leo Gorcey and the Bowery Boys.

Shooting: "Black Gold."

Paramount

Finished: "Variety Girl."

Started: "Albuquerque" (Clarion), with Randolph Scott, Barbara Britton, George (Gabby) Hayes.

Shooting: "Road to Rio," "Saigon," "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

PRC

Finished: "All in the Game," "Philo Vance's Peril" (formerly "Philo Vance No. 3").

RKO Radio

Finished: "Out of the Past."

Shooting: "If You Knew Susie," "Magic Town" (Riskin).

Republic

Finished: "Lightnin' Strikes Twice."

Started: "Twilight on the Rio Grande," with Gene Autry, Adele Mara, Sterling Holloway.

Shooting: "Bells of San Angelo."

Screen Guild

Finished: "Shoot to Kill."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Moss Rose," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Mother Wore Tights," "Its Only Human."

United Artists

Started: "Body and Soul" (Enterprise), with John Garfield, Lilli Palmer, Hazel Brooks, Canada Lee, William Conrad.

Shooting: "Heaven Only Knows" (Nebenzal), "Copacabana" (Beacon), "Vendetta" (California), "The Other Love" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Finished: "The Egg and I."

Shooting: "Time Out of Mind," "Buck Privates Come Home," "Ivy" (Interwood).

Warners

Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "Dark Passage," "Deep Valley," "The Woman in White," "Night Unto Night."

Says Box Offices Maintaining Pace

The expected post-holiday slump in the amusement business has failed to materialize, according to Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio vice-president and general sales manager, citing box-office records of some of his company's current releases as the basis of his conclusion.

Mercey Leaving to Join UNO Group

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 10. — Arch Mercey, chief of the motion picture division of the Office of Government Reports, will leave Government service to accept a position as information officer for the World Health Organization of the United Nations Organization, it was learned here today.

A longtime Government film man, Mercey will be with the UNO for only six months, after which he will return to Washington and enter private business. His new position as information man for the health organization is "strictly temporary," it was learned.

Mercey will be replaced by Dallas Halvestadt, who has been serving as his assistant. Halvestadt was a major in the infantry during the war, and served as a film consultant to the bureau of public relations of the War Department.

End 4-Day Parley on Alexander Policies

COLORADO SPRINGS, Jan. 12.—Field officials of Alexander Film Co. have concluded a four-day meeting at the home office in Colorado Springs to discuss plans and business promotion for 1947. The post-war expansion program of more thorough territory coverage, cooperative sales, production prices and availability, new color lines and other pertinent matters, which was initiated during 1946, will be carried forward in 1947.

A luncheon for visiting wives was held and the conference closed with a banquet at the Acacia Hotel.

Woods Heads WB Dallas Office

Don Woods, formerly branch manager for Warner Brothers in Milwaukee, has been promoted by Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager, to manager of the Dallas office, which is now part of the territory under the supervision of Norman Ayers, Southern division sales manager. Woods will take over his new post immediately, succeeding J. W. Loewe, who resigned.

A successor in the Milwaukee branch managership will be named by Kalmenson in a few days.

MPA Official

(*Continued from page* 1)

State Department's communications division and, perhaps, as influencing later action by the Republican Congress on appropriations for Benton's cultural films program, a program which has no strong Republican support in any event.

"The American people fear the type of culture which Benton proposes to spread abroad," O'Hara said.

"It has been a universal experience that synthetic government propaganda, such as he favors, has always ended in failure or something worse. The American tradition of free expression is based on the positive conviction that no government bureaucrat, even one as wise as Mr. Benton, is wise enough to impose his own notions of what constitutes American culture on the great media of free expression," he said.

O'Hara remarked that Benton would do far better if he followed the traditional policy of his own State Department in opening up world channels of news and information instead of trying to remake patterns of American culture. O'Hara was referring to the constructive work of the Department's George Canty.

O'Hara's comments were held to be the first industry rebuttal to what has amounted to apparent efforts on the part of State Department theorists to "remake the industry and dictate production policies." Benton has not been alone in his criticism of films and the industry. Several of his associates in the Department are equally as critical.

Allied to Produce

(*Continued from page* 1)

considered by Allied to handle the production job, Myers asserted. He added that no decision has been reached as to who will be given the contract.

At the coming board meeting, Myers plans to include recommendations on admission tax problems, decree proposals, and a summary of the year's activities.

Myers expressed the belief that production of films by Allied will be of great assistance to its membership. "They will be able to better bargain with distributors if a backlog of films is made available by Allied," Myers stated.

Pointing to the serious product shortage, Myers said that exhibitors are forced to take "everything and anything" that comes along. Allied's production plans will place exhibitors in a position to do "some real trading," Myers concluded.

Calls Decree a 'Hypo'

(*Continued from page* 1)

pletely divorced from owning these theatres."

NCA will continue its "unceasing fight for divorcement," Berger said. Ownership of key theatres, he maintains, gives the producer-distributors "a strangle-hold on this industry, and, above all, an iron grip on the exhibition end of the business." This circumstance, he said, "destroys free enterprise, which is inconsistent with our form of Government.

NCA, Berger warned, will make every effort to secure divorcement through legislation "if relief will not be accomplished through the courts."

Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

can be expected in a few years," the department said.

There will be about 250,000 television sets on the market at the end of this year, depending of course upon production factors, the department said.

Viewing television equipment prospects, the department said: "Distribution of the sets will be limited by the areas having television coverage—presently, only six cities."

The Government added, however, that 38 additional stations have been authorized by the FCC and will be in operation soon.

Walsh of 'IA' Backs 'Dimes' Theatre Drive

Richard F. Walsh, president of IATSE, has sent a telegram to motion picture circuit executives expressing support of the motion picture projectionists for the "March of Dimes" drive and calling for the cooperation of every theatre owner with the motion picture division of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in scheduling audience collections at every performance from Jan. 24-30.

'Portrait' Talent Hunt

Monogram and the Austin Portrait Studios have launched "Portrait to Fame" talent search, with first prize a contract for a minimum of one picture, plus transportation to Hollywood. Second prize is a $250 victory bond, and 30 additional bond prizes are offered. Contest, which covers California and Utah, ends April 30.

$1.06¼ Columbia Div.

Columbia Pictures' board of directors has declared a quarterly dividend of $1.06¼ per share on the $4.25 cumlative preferred stock, payable on Feb. 15, to stockholders of record on Feb. 1.

Box Office EYE-CUE!

Q. What advertising media provides greatest point-of-contact EYE-CUE for patrons?

A. Talking TRAILERS, on the **SCREEN** . . . providing a *Sample* of the picture they will see; through the use of *live* scenes and showman-like *selling*... **AND**... colorful **ACCESSORIES**, in **LOBBY** and **FRONT**, to arrest attention with eye-appealing *art* and picture-selling *display!*

Q. How can patrons be reached and sold, *through* "away-from-theatre" *advertising?*

A. Through the use of colorful 1 sheet, 3 sheet, 6 sheet and 24 sheet *Lithographs* for posting... *Window Cards*... and *Heralds.*

Q. What firm offers ALL of these services, through a single source, *and backs them up with a reputation for* proven *dependability?*

A. **NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE** provides **ALL** of these services from 31 exchanges, located in every important exchange center in the United States. Over a *quarter-of-a-century* of **SERVICE** to satisfied exhibitors attests to The **PRIZE BABY**'s craftsmanship and knowledge of exhibitors' requirements.

The PRIZE BABY is *YOUR* answer to Box Office EYE-CUE!

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

FREE COPY
REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 9 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1947 TEN CENTS

Admissions in Canada to Be De-Controlled

Ceilings to Go on War Emergency Measure

OTTAWA, Jan. 13.—The Canadian Government momenatrily will formally announce immediate abolishment of wartime ceilings on admissions for all theatres in the Dominion, it is officially stated in Ottawa.

The long-awaited step actually comes as a surprise because no immediate action was contemplated.

There is as yet no word regarding any move toward any change in the excise tax of 20 per cent on theatre grosses. This subject would have to be introduced at the next session of Parliament, which opens Jan. 30. Falling food prices in the United

(*Continued on page 3*)

Majors File Appeal In Goldman Suit

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13.—An appeal has been filed in U. S. District Court here by Stanley-Warner and distributors against the recent decree in which William Goldman won $375,000 damages, plus $60,000 fee for his anti-trust suit involving the Erlanger Theater.

Defendants include Loew's, Paramount, RKO Radio, 20th-Fox, Columbia, Warner Brothers, Warner Brothers Circuit Management, Vitagraph, Stanley Co., Universal and United Artists.

May Face Selznick Issues at UA Meet

United Artists' board of directors is scheduled to meet here today, with problems growing out of the company's controversy with David O. Selznick expected to come up for discussion and possible action.

Prominent among matters remaining to be settled, it is understood, is whether or not UA will go ahead with its original plans for instituting legal action against Selznick for alleged breach of his distribution contract or shall present its charges as cross-claims in the suit Selznick filed

(*Continued on page 6*)

J.R. Grainger Names Walton, Titus and O'Gara Sales Heads

Edward L. Walton, Walter L. Titus, Jr. and James V. O'Gara yesterday were named new division managers of Republic Pictures, in a realignment of domestic sales and distribution into three divisions, Western, Southern, and Eastern, as announced by executive vice-president and general sales manager James R. Grainger. The executives will continue to make their headqarters at the home office.

The move was prompted, Grainger stated, by the increased scope of Republic sales and distribution, highlighted by its added concentration on top-bracket product, reflected in current schedules and future production plans.

In addition his present duties, Walton, vice-president assumes personal supervision of sales and distribution in the Western division, consisting of the Midwestern, Prairie, and Pacific Coast districts. His territory includes the Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis branches, headed by district sales manager Will Baker; the St. Louis, Des Moines, Kan-

(*Continued on page 6*)

French Lift Decree On American Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Disagreement over the dubbing of American films exported to France has been settled, George Canty, State Department film consultant, announced here tonight.

The French agreed, as a result of conferences in Paris, to eliminate the new regulation requiring that U. S. pictures must be approved by three different government departments before dubbing. Hereafter, the only government unit which must approve the dubbing is the film commission. Under the new, but discontinued regula-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Connors is Leader For Greek Relief

Distributor participation in the current industry appeal to adopt Greek war orphans in honor of Spyros Skouras, got under way yesterday with the election of Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, to the chairmanship

(*Continued on page 3*)

End of Building Controls Shortly

Washington, Jan. 13.—Of considerable interest to film exhibition, President Truman in his budget message to Congress, at the weekend, asserted that the Office of Temporary controls will be "eliminated as soon as possible." The OTC now handles requests for theatre and other construction.

French Is Successor To John J. Friedl

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 13.—John J. Friedl today resigned as president of Minnesota Amusement Co.'s 97 theatres in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Wisconsin, and has been succeeded by Harry B. French, assistant to Friedl since 1942.

J. J. Friedl

The realignment becomes effective at once, and French stated today that there will be no change in personnel among executives, department heads, or in the circuit's operating policy.

Leonard Goldenson, vice-president

(*Continued on page 3*)

Broidy on Decree: 'Await Application'

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13. — The industry should await practical application of the decree handed down in the New York equity suit before passing judgment on its merits, Steve Broidy,

(*Continued on page 6*)

Cheyfitz, Ex-CIO Aide, in MPA Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Working quietly behind the scenes at the Motion Picture Association office here for the past year has been Eric Johnston's executive assistant, Edward Cheyfitz, who served for five years as national chairman of the Interna-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Defense Seen Hesitating to Bring Appeal

But Cross-Claims to US Move Would Be Filed

A growing doubt that the defense will initiate any appeal of the industry anti-trust suit was being expressed in motion picture legal circles here yesterday, based on information sifting out of closed sessions held last week by counsel for the five theatre-owning distribution companies.

Efforts to obtain comment from counsel for the companies brought forth statements ranging from that of Louis Phillips of Paramount, who said no decision had been reached as yet, to that of Robert Perkins of

(*Continued on page 6*)

20th Field Meet on Decree in February

Tom J. Connors, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, is planning to call together his key sales personnel throughout the country early in February for a meeting on marketing problems arising out of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, a spokesman for the company said here yesterday. The conference will be held in a centrally-located city,

(*Continued on page 3*)

Goldwyn Denies A Selznick Deal

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—Samuel Goldwyn at a press conference here today, denied reports that he might join forces with David O. Selznick in setting up their own distribution organization. He told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that there is no possibility of his making any deal with Selznick.

Asked whether he would re-sign

(*Continued on page 3*)

In This Issue

"Sinbad, the Sailor," is reviewed on page 8; key city grosses are given on the same page.

Coming Events

Today—Testimonial for C. Elmer Nolte, Jr., in Baltimore.

Today Through Thursday.—Construction Materials Exposition, Public Auditorium, Cleveland.

Jan. 15-30—March of Dimes drive (theatre collection week begins Jan. 24).

Jan. 16—Meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Atlantic Coast Section, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

Jan. 20—Meeting of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois Motion Picture Theatre Owners in St. Louis.

Jan. 22-23—Western Pennsylvania Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners annual convention, William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh.

Jan. 23—Society of Motion Picture Engineers board of governors meeting, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

Jan. 26-28—Meeting of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Charlotte.

Jan. 27—Mid-winter meeting of the IATSE executive board begins in Seattle.

Jan. 31—National Allied board meeting, Statler Hotel, Washington.

Feb. 2-3—Convention of the Virginia Motion Picture Theatres Association, Shoreham Hotel, Washington.

Feb. 7—Press photographers annual dance, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Feb. 11—Edison Centennial dinner, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Johnston Extends Arizona Visit

Cancelling earlier plans, Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, will remain in Phoenix, Arizona, until Friday before going to Hollywood for a brief visit. He is scheduled to leave Hollywood next Sunday for New York.

Originally, Johnston, had planned to be in Hollywood yesterday and in San Francisco today, leaving there tomorrow for New York.

Century Personnel Switch

Irving Wiegan, assistant manager of Century Circuit's Avalon Theatre, here, has been transferred to the Marine, in the same capacity, in a post switch with Samuel Tilford, the Avalon's assistant manager, who now goes to the Marine in that capacity, it is announced by J. R. Springer, Century's general theatre manager.

Rename Memphis Censors

MEMPHIS, Jan. 13.—The local board of censors was re-appointed by the city commission today for another year. Members are: Lloyd T. Binford, retired insurance man, chairman; Hodges Honnell, attorney, and Mrs. Sid Law, housewife.

Personal Mention

HAL HORNE, chairman of the board of Story Productions, has left here for the Coast.

•

JAMES CAGNEY has arrived in the East from Hollywood and is a house guest of WILLIAM SAROYAN at Millneck, L. I.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager for Warners, and SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager, have left here for Boston.

•

ROY DISNEY, president of Walt Disney Productions, is here from the Coast.

•

SAMUEL GOLDWYN has returned to Hollywood from New York and London.

•

HARRY SHERMAN, Cincinnati M-G-M salesman, has returned to that city from New York.

•

HARRY PAUL, branch manager of Wil-Kin Theatre Supply at Atlanta, has returned there from Jacksonville.

•

ARTHUR ZUELCH, Minneapolis M-G-M office manager, has returned there from New York and Detroit.

•

LOU LEVY, president of Leeds Music Co., has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

•

JAMES A. FITZPATRICK, who produces Fitzpatrick Travel Talks for M-G-M, is here from the Coast.

GEORGE HAAG, manager of Century's Franklin Theatre, and his wife are the parents of a son.

•

BETTY HUTTON, Paramount star, will be presented with a medal tomorrow evening by the Beverly Hills Post, American Legion, for her work as an entertainer during the past war.

•

PERRY SPENCER, Southern publicity director for Universal, has left Atlanta for Memphis, New Orleans and Miami.

•

FRANK CAPRA, producer- director, is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow from Hollywood.

•

HAROLD RAIVES, Schine Ohio zone manager, is attending a meeting in Gloversville, N. Y.

•

GEORGE SHARF of the M-G-M legal department, has returned to New York from Louisville.

•

A. A. SCHUBERT, manager of exchange operations for RKO-Radio, left here yesterday for Pittsburgh.

•

SAM SIRITZKY, vice-president of Siritzky International, will leave here Jan. 15 for France.

•

GLADYS ZUCKER and ROSE LASHER of M-G-M's home office, are leaving here Friday for Miami.

•

DONALD NELSON has left the Coast for Washington.

MacNamara to Coast After Eastern Talks

Paul MacNamara, national director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for the Selznick Releasing Organization, has left New York for Hollywood after interviewing a number of candidates for the post of Eastern advertising-publicity director, which was left vacant by the resignation of Sidney G. Alexander last month. No successor has yet been named as a result of the interviews.

Meanwhile, Milton Kussell, general sales manager, has left here for Chicago, where he will confer with A. J. DelCambre, Southwest division manager, and Sam Horowitz, Midwest division manager, on plans for the new company's establishment in those areas.

Allied Board Will Meet Here Tomorrow

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey will hold its annual board of directors meeting at the Hotel Astor, tomorrow, at one P.M.

On Jan. 28, a state-wide legislative meeting will be held at the Stacy-Trent Hotel, Trenton, where the organization will be host to many of the state's official family, state senators and assemblymen also being invited. Edward Lachman, president of this organization, will preside over both meetings.

Stephens Is Named To W. B. Field Post

Richard Stephens, formerly field public relations representative for Warners in Upstate and Western New York, has been assigned by Mort Blumenstock, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, to handle the West Coast territory, with headquarters in San Francisco. He succeeds Tom Gorman, who resigned recently due to his health.

On Stephens' departure for the coast this week, his former territory will be added to that of Art Moger, New England field representative, working out of Boston.

Producers Seek Dismissal of Suit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—The Association of Motion Picture Producers has filed a motion in U. S. District Court for dismissal of the suit brought a month ago against producers, the CSU, and IATSE, by 50 of the carpenters charging conspiracy to prevent them from working in studios. The AMPP motion contends the matter properly should go first to the NLRB, with an appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals if petitioners are dissatisfied with a ruling.

New Pathe Laboratory

A reception will be held here Friday afternoon, to observe the opening of Pathe's new laboratory building.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
With 13 BIG STARS
in Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S SONG OF THE SOUTH IN TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HELD OVER! 1st N.Y. Showing! 'THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO' LOUIS HAYWARD BARBARA BRITTON A Columbia Picture
IN PERSON JIMMY PALMER & ORCH. Extra! JEAN CARROLL

Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts in "Cross My Heart" A Paramount Picture
In Person! THE ANDREWS SISTERS LES PAUL & HIS TRIO Extra! TONY PASTOR And Band
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"Tender...brimming with human warmth" —WALTER WINCHELL
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Darryl F. Zanuck's production of W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S
The Razor's Edge
20th Century-Fox
and Great Stage Revue!
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 50th St. Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

"MURDER IN REVERSE"
(A Four Continents Release)
"Ingenious . . . Stirring."
Alton Cook, N. Y. World Telegram
RIALTO THEATER
42nd Street and Broadway

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NSS to Distribute Trailer for 'Dimes'

National Screen Service will again this year handle distribution of the March of Dimes trailer that is to be shown in theatres throughout the country Jan. 24-30. The 1947 trailer, approximately 330 feet in length, is entitled "A Step Forward." Greer Garson is the star.

All other accessories for the March of Dimes drive of the motion picture division will be serviced directly to theatres by local committees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. These include two styles of one sheets, window cards, other display material, mats, collection boxes and baskets.

Meanwhile it was announced yesterday that collections will be made in two additional circuits, Comerford Publix Theatre Corp. and Kallet Theatres. McCollum Theatre Circuit, Hoopeston, Ill., and the Community Circuit Theatres, Cleveland, recently made it known that it also would collect for the drive.

Several new prizes were added yesterday for the March of Dimes exhibitors' contests.

American Broadcasting Sets 'Mile of Dimes' Goal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—One full mile of dimes is the goal of American Broadcasting here and its local station, KECA, when "Hollywood's Ribbon of Dimes" is staged on Thursday, Jan. 23, in behalf of the annual March of Dimes.

Starting at six A.M., and continuing until midnight, "Hollywood's Ribbon of Dimes" will run from Sunset Boulevard and Vine Street to Hollywood Boulevard and Vine and back and forth between these two points until a full mile has been covered.

French Lift Decree

(Continued from page 1)

tion, all U. S. dubbed films had to pass through the finance and national economy departments too.

The French did not completely agree with U. S. representatives on the new requirement that a film more than two years old must not be dubbed. However, it was agreed that that regulation be postponed until the present back-log of American product in that country has been exhausted. Conferences resulting in the elimination of the new French film barriers were held on Jan. 10, Canty disclosed. The situation arose because the French placed two new, restrictive rulings on dubbed films, causing the U. S. Motion Picture Association grave concern.

Doris Blumberg to Be Married Today

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13. — Doris J. Blumberg, daughter of Nate Blumberg, Universal president, will be married to Stanley Meyers, son of Fred Meyers, labor relations executive for the 20th Century-Fox studio, at the Blumberg home in Van Nuys tomorrow. Immediately after the ceremony the couple will leave for New York and will sail for Europe on the *Queen Elizabeth* on Jan. 18. The wedding will be attended by numerous industry executives from New York and here.

Decree Meet

(Continued from page 1)

with a check-up now being made to select a spot where hotel accommodations can be obtained.

Proceeding with caution in making sales-policy changes in light of competitive-bidding and other practices ordered by the decree, Connors has been sounding out his home-office staff on their views of the situation and desires also to consult his field men, especially on what they have heard with regard to exhibitor interpretations and expectations in their territories.

Meanwhile, although some companies are said to be instituting competitive bidding even in advance of the July 1 date set for it by the New York Federal District Court, 20th-Fox is following, tentatively, the plan of awaiting possible final determination of that issue in the U. S. Supreme Court, but is carrying on informal negotiations with every exhibitor in every territory who seeks to show the company's product.

Among problems expected to be tackled at the field meeting is that allegedly presented by section II-9 of the decree, which prohibits a distributor from "arbitrarily refusing the demand of an exhibitor . . . to license a feature to him for exhibition on a run selected by the exhibitor," while the preceding section, in setting up competitive bidding, leaves the distributor a certain latitude in selecting theatres suitable for its films and in determining which of two competing bids is the higher.

Cheyfitz in MPA Post

(Continued from page 1)

tional Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers of the CIO.

Cheyfitz is recognized as an expert in labor-management relations, having been in that field for 10 years. Before becoming associated with the CIO he was connected with the Doehler-Jarvis Corp. of Toledo.

An oldtime friend of Johnston, Cheyfitz is author of a book currently on the presses at McGraw-Hill, entitled "Constructive Collective Bargaining."

Cheyfitz is primarily concerned in the MPA organization with the job of coordination between the Hollywood, New York and Washington offices. He is the general manager of the office here, and holds the title of executive assistant to Johnston.

Cheyfitz has been mentioned as a possible Johnston choice for the Coast job of labor relations man.

Connors Heads Relief

(Continued from page 1)

of an industry-wide distributors committee. The appeal will operate with the Greek War Relief Association, as a "within the industry" effort.

The committee elected to function under Connors' leadership consists of A. Montague, Columbia; Ed Schmitzer, United Artists; Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M; E. T. Gomersall, Universal; C. J. Scollard, Paramount; Edward Walton, Republic; Lloyd Lind, PRC; Peter Levathes, 20th Century-Fox.

Also present at yesterday's meeting were Ned Depinet, co-chairman with Si Fabian and Jack Cohn of the industry appeal; B. H. Serkowich, publicity co-chairman with S. Barret McCormick; Robert E. Coyne, of the American Theatres Association; and Sam Shain and Leon Bamberger.

Goldwyn

(Continued from page 1)

with RKO following the expiration of the present releasing pact on June 1, Goldwyn said he did not know now. Goldwyn, accompanied by his wife, was en route to Hollywood after a trip to England. He was host to Chicago newspaper critics and trade paper men at a luncheon at the Ambassador hotel. Exhibitor guests were Edwin Silverman and Emil Stern, heads of the local Essaness Circuit.

Goldwyn said he thought subsequent run exhibitors should charge the same price as initial first-run houses. "The production cost is the same whether a picture is exhibited at a first run or subsequent run and there should be no reduction in price simply because a film is played a little later," Goldwyn said. Goldwyn also told the newsmen that he thought within five years 95 per cent of all films made would be in color. He said that instead of three prints being necessary for color films, a process would be devised whereby only one print would be necessary.

Goldwyn also said that tri-dimension films would being making their appearance within five years. He said he had seen some showings of this new process and was highly impressed with its possibilities.

French Succeeds

(Continued from page 1)

of Paramount, with which Minnesota Amusement is affiliated, arrived in Minneapolis from New York yesterday to accept the Friedl resignation and install French in the post, which he occupied several months last year while Friedl was inactive on his doctor's orders following an operation.

Friedl, who came to Minneapolis in 1932 when the circuit was in reorganization, will retire from show business and move to his citrus grove in Texas. He was cited several times by the Government for his work while Northwest chairman of the War Activities Committee and for his efforts with various national WAC committees on bond drives.

French started in show business in Mankato, Minn., in 1912. He combined his theatres with the old Finkelstein and Ruben circuit in 1923 and became Southern Minnesota district manager, being elevated to Southern district manager in 1929 when Publix came into control of the circuit.

Canada Ceilings

(Continued from page 1)

States are believed to have been a factor in the decontrol action.

Famous Players to Hold To Present Admissions

TORONTO, Jan. 13.—Famous Players Canadian plans to continue present admission scales following the lifting of ceilings by the government, J. J. Fitzgibbons, president, said here today. Although operating costs have increased this is not the proper time to raise prices, he said.

Fitzgibbons added that any increases found to be necessary in the future would be minor. "The majority of people depend upon motion pictures for their entertainment and we shall continue to give it to them at minimum cost," he declared. He said that theatre prices in Canada are the lowest in the world.

Names . . . *in Today's News*

WALTON C. AMENT, vice-president and editor of RKO Pathe News, has been named vice-president and general manager, by Frederic Ullman, president of RKO Pathe, Inc. Ullman at the same time promoted Allyn Butterfield from the post of news editor to Ament's former chief editorship. Butterfield also has been in charge of publicity and advertising and will retain general supervision of promotion, with William K. McClure, Butterfield's assistant, named assistant publicity manager.

W. C. Ament

Phil Reisman, Jr., writer of Pathe's "This Is America" series, was named to the new post of editorial manager of the company, in charge of "America" scripts and writers and other short subjects, including commercials. Ullman will devote more time to broader management duties, with Ament supervising all newsreel, documentary and commercial film operations.

Skouras Is Film Chairman Of 'Brotherhood Week'

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, has been named chairman of the motion picture division of the annual "American Brotherhood Week" program which is to be fostered by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The week will begin on Feb. 16. Skouras has asked industry executives to join him at a meeting at the St. Moritz Hotel here tomorrow to discuss plans for the campaign.

Mesher Becomes Hamrick Circuit General Manager

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 13.—M. M. Mesher has been advanced from assistant manager to general manager of the Hamrick Evergreen Oregon and south Washington theatres, succeeding the late Albert J. Finke. A graduate of the University of Washington, Mesher formerly had been with Stirling Theatres, Seattle. Recently he was elected to the Portland board of censors.

Fadiman Leaves Metro's Culver City Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—William J. Fadiman has resigned as story department director of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's studio.

Formerly Eastern story editor for M-G-M, he was elevated to Coast story head in June, 1942, and prior to his Metro association he was Eastern story chief for Samuel Goldwyn.

Speaking for the Odeon circuits, Manager C. J. Appel said slight increases would be made in 10 of the circuit's 106 theatres because they had been operated for some time at a loss.

THE HEAI

SAN FRANCISC GIGANTIC

IDENCE GHTY!

NEW RECORD FOR RAZOR IN BALTIMORE!

ALL-TIME RECORD FOR ANY THEATRE, ANYWHERE, AT THE ROXY!

RAZOR'S EDGE 2nd WEEK TOPS RECORD 1st AT THE ROXY!

RAZOR'S EDGE 3rd COLOSSAL AT THE ROXY!

4th WEEK RAZOR BIGGEST MONEY IN N. Y.!

PITTSBURGH ALL THEATRE CAN HOLD!

FOX, PHILADELPHIA, SETS NEW MARKS!

BUSTS RECORDS SKY-HIGH IN K. C.!

ALL OMAHA JAMMING IN TO SEE EDGE!

Top Money For 'Edge' In 6 Weeks At Roxy

New York—The Darryl F. Zanuck production of "The Razor's Edge" wound up its sixth week at the Roxy Theatre with a total gross figure never previously equalled in any theatre.

* VARIETY • FILM DAILY • MOTION PICTUI HERALD • DAILY VARIETY • HOLLYWOO TRADE REVIEW • BOXOFFICE • THE EXH

Every Theatre Has The *Edge;* Whe

"MARGIE" In Technicolor • "MY DARLING CLEMENTINE" • "THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" In Technicolor • "BOOMERA

LINES* ARE ALL ON *Edge*!

RAZOR TAKES CLEVELAND BY STORM!

RAZOR RUN-AWAY RECORD-BREAKER IN CHICAGO!

RAZOR ALL-TIME RECORD IN 4 LOS ANGELES THEATRES!

TOPS EVERY RECORD IN DETROIT HISTORY!

EDGE STILL TOPS N. Y. IN 5th AT ROXY!

6th WEEK AT ROXY TOPS ALL RECORDS OF FIRST 5!

RAZOR 7th BIGGER THAN 3rd, 4th, 5th WEEKS!

RAZOR NEW RUN RECORD IN 8th ROXY WEEK!

MILWAUKEE RECORD!

ST. LOUIS SMASH!

DENVER BIGGEST IN HISTORY!

TYRONE POWER · GENE TIERNEY · JOHN PAYNE

Anne BAXTER · Clifton WEBB · Herbert MARSHALL

in Darryl F. Zanuck's production of

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S

The Razor's Edge

Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by EDMUND GOULDING
Screen Play by LAMAR TROTTI
From the Novel by W. Somerset Maugham

AILY · MOTION PICTURE
EPORTER · SHOWMEN'S
OR · THE INDEPENDENT

It Plays 20th Century-Fox!

13 RUE MADELEINE" · "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" · "CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" In Technicolor

Grainger Names 3

(*Continued from page* 1)

sas City, and Omaha branches, headed by district sales manager Nat E. Steinberg; and the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Portland, Salt Lake City and Seattle offices, headed by district sales manager Earl Collins.

Titus, vice-president formerly in charge of branch operations, joins the sales organization, assuming sales supervision of the Southern division, covering the Southern and Southwestern sales districts. His territory includes Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans, and Tampa, headed by district sales manager Merritt Davis, and Dallas, Memphis, and Oklahoma City in the Southwestern district, headed by Norman J. Colquhoun.

O'Gara, formerly executive assistant to Grainger, has been appointed Eastern division manager, his territory including the Eastern, New England, and Central districts. He will cover New York, Philadelphia, and Washington branches, headed by district sales manager Maxwell Gillis; the Boston, Albany, Buffalo and New Haven branches, headed by district sales manager Frank Dervin, and the Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh branches, headed by district sales manager Sam Seplowin.

Gallup Will Be Host

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—The executive board of the Screen Publicists Guild will be the guests of George Gallup, president of Audience Research Institute at a dinner-meeting on Wednesday evening to hear a first-hand exposition of ARI views on the importance of publicity men in connection with promotion of pictures.

Take Stand Against Dividend Taxation

Washington, Jan. 13.—The Small Business Advisory Committee of the Commerce Department declared in a report here today that income from stock dividends should not be taxed. The group pointed out double taxation exists in that corporate earnings and personal income on dividends are taxed.

Selznick Issues

(*Continued from page* 1)

against the company in Federal District Court in Los Angeles, Dec. 20. Selznick, asking $7,500,000 damages, charged UA with the "mishandling of his productions, including the sale of weaker product of other producers on the strength of Selznick's pictures."

Although the law firm of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland and Kiendl was retained by UA prior to the Selznick suit to determine the course of possible action against the producer and was later asked to handle the defense of the suit brought against the company, a spokesman for the Davis office said such a defense will be up to UA counsel on the Coast. This, presumably, would include the handling of cross-claims, although they might be prepared here.

New Chicago Contract

CHICAGO, Jan. 13. — The Film Chauffeurs Union today signed a contract with Film Truck Service at an hourly wage scale of $1.72.

Broidy on Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

president of Monogram, said here yesterday following the final session of a two-day meeting of Monogram franchise holders and branch managers, held at the Coronado Hotel, here. Broidy, Edward Morey, Norton Ritchey, Morey Goldstein, Jack Schlaifer, Arthur Greenblatt and other company executives who attended the meeting have left here for New York where they are due to arrive tomorrow.

Broidy also said he regards the so-called industry forum proposed by Fred Wehrenberg as a "fine idea," but said such a project requires sacrifice on the part of many. Arbitration of problems within the industry is excellent, he added, but warned that participants must be prepared to make sacrifices when demanded for peaceful settlement of problems. "Everyone wants to retain profits," he said significantly.

Sales Policy Discussed

The principal feature of the Monogram meeting was discussion of sales policy to be applied to "It Happened on Fifth Avenue. Delegates at the meeting from the field included Nate Dickman, branch manager, Albany; Harold Cohen, manager and Arthur Bromberg, franchise holder, Atlanta; Ben Abrams, manager, Boston; Harry Berkson, franchise holder, Buffalo; Ben Eisenberg, manager, and Irving Mandel, franchise holder, Chicago; William Onie, franchise holder, Cincinnati; Nate Schultz, franchise holder, Cleveland; Lloyd Rust, franchise holder, and Ed Blumenthal, manager, Dallas; Lon Fidler, franchise holder, Denver; James Beatty, manager, Des Moines; Harlan Starr, manager, and William Hurlbut, franchise holder, Detroit; Carl Harthill, manager, Indianapolis; Harry Gaffney, manager, Kansas City; Bailey Pritchard, manager, Memphis; Charles Trampe, franchise holder, Milwaukee; Murray Steinman, manager, Minneapolis; John Pavone, manager, New Haven; Henry Glover, manager, New Orleans.

Also, Nat Furst, New England district manager, New York; Mike Comer, manager, Oklahoma City; Al Davis, manager, Philadelphia; Ben William, franchise holder, and Sam Fineberg, manager, Pittsburgh; Barney Rosenthal, manager, St. Louis; Don Tibbs, manager, Salt Lake City; Jack Safer, manager, Washington.

Lifton in New York For Ad Conferences

Lou Lifton, Monogram advertising-publicity head, arrived here from Hollywood and St. Louis yesterday, accompanied by Mrs. Lifton. While here Lifton will consult with executives of Buchanan and Co., advertising agents, regarding the campaign to be launched on Roy Del Ruth's recently completed Allied Artists production, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," and install an enlarged publicity staff for New York contacts.

Nusbaum Named to Monogram's Studio Legal Department

Herbert Nusbaum has joined Monogram's legal staff and has been assigned by Sam Wolf to the studio legal department. Nusbaum joined Loew's law staff in New York in 1938. Following four years service in the U. S. Navy, he returned there last year, working on legal matters concerning sales and distribution.

Defense Hesitating

(*Continued from page* 1)

Warners, who said: "So far as our company is concerned, I don't think we will appeal until we see what the Department of Justice does."

The reported disclination to appeal is understood to emanate from high-ranging attorneys who feel that the government prosecution, in failing to obtain its major objective of theatre divvorcement, sustained a substantial defeat at the trial and that the final decree handed down on Dec. 31 by the New York Federal District Court represents a far better result than many observers generally anticipated —a result which might not be easy to improve in the U. S. Supreme Court.

Most troublesome feature of the decree, it is generally agreed, is the competitive-bidding clause, but some attorneys hold that this may be upset through the American Theatres Association's appeal from the denial of its intervention petition, which they regard as the only form of appeal that so far appears certain to be made. Thurman Arnold, ATA counsel, is centering his attack on the bidding provisions alone and is understood to feel he can obtain a hearing before the high tribunal even if none of the parties to the suit should make any move in that direction.

Approval Needed

Although Robert Wright, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, and Wendell Berge, head of the Department of Justice anti-trust division, have repeatedly stated their intention of carrying the case to the Supreme Court, mainly on the divorcement issue, their recommendation to this effect must first be approved by the Solicitor General, an office which now remains open following the resignation of Howard McGrath in December. Pending a Government appeal, the five theatre-owning defendants—Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners—are understood to be marking time, while intending to center their efforts on cross-claims which could be entered following any brief which the Department of Justice may file. If, unexpectedly, no such move should be forthcoming from the U. S. by the time the March 1 deadline is reached, these defendants might permit the case to be closed.

Meanwhile, the non-theatre-owning defendants—United Artists, Universal and Columbia—are all on record as desiring an appeal.

Monte Carlo
"PREVIEW ROOM"
. . . will really SELL your picture.
Fully equipped for 35MM, 16MM, and Slide Projection.
Cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners served in this versatile room — setting a gay mood for a favorable reaction to your film.
MADISON AVENUE at 54th St. New York, N. Y.
Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

CSU Appeals for World-wide Aid

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—In appeals to world-wide government principals for "international action" in their support, the Conference of Studio Unions and Film Technicians Local No. 683 (IATSE), charge that because Hollywood, in the spotlight of world attention the most reactionary interests in America are trying to shape Hollywood labor struggles into a precedent and pattern for a general union-smashing campaign, and this is why employers refuse to sign contracts or negotiate with Hollywood film workers."

Cables to all countries also asked that the appeal be put on a mass basis, that is, urging that people of France, England, Scandinavia, India, Australia, Mexico and South America boycott films made here under conditions described as "anti-labor terrorism" and "unfair to long-established American unions."

A statement by the CSU asserted that the "labor situation in the American film capital is the spearhead of a drive by monopoly interests to crush legitimate trade unions and replace them with company unions or open shops."

Music Publication Polls on Film Scores

Musical Courier is sponsoring a poll to award annual citations for the "best film music" coming under the following categories: best original score, best arranged score, best conducted score, best orchestration, best original song, best instrumental solo, best choreography, and best musical short subject. The magazine's subscribers will vote. The poll will close on April 15.

Actors Will Demand AFL End Strike

Hollywood, Jan. 13. — The Screen Actors Guild, on Jan. 17, will demand that the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in Miami, carry out the mandate of the last AFL national convention, which instructed the council to set up permanent machinery to insure a peaceful settlement of the studio jurisdictional dispute without any work stoppage. All branches of the AAAA are to be asked to join the SAG in demanding action.

Strike Settlement By Feb. 1—Keenan

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 13.—Joseph D. Keenan today told *Motion Picture Daily* he hopes to confer with both Richard Walsh, IATSE president, and William Hutcheson, Carpenters' Union head within the next day or two to settle final differences between the two regarding the Hollywood jurisdictional squabble.

Keenan, who is a Chicago Federation of Labor officer, revealed he has held meetings with both Walsh and Hutcheson ever since his return from Hollywood several months ago. Keenan said he has made four trips to New York to confer with Walsh and one trip to Indianapolis to confer with Hutcheson, and he has already held one meeting with both Walsh and Hutcheson in New York City.

According to Keenan, both Walsh and Hutcheson have agreed to abide by the 1945 directive but what is holding up terms of a final peace settlement is method of taking up cases in the future. Keenan is anxious to settle the whole Hollywood business before Feb. 1, as he leaves on that date to conclude his chores as labor advisor to the military governor in Germany, Gen. Lucius Clay.

PCCITO Trustees To Consider Decree

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13. — PCCITO trustees will meet Jan. 22-23 in the Benson Hotel, Portland, to consider the Government decree, executive secretary Robert Poole said. Other topics on the agenda include state and city admission taxes, existing distributor sales policies, checking system, Government films and clearance and run on the Pacific Coast. Also attending meeting for the first time will be representatives from Utah, Southern Idaho and Montana. A statement on their attitude toward the decree will follow the meeting.

Allied's Don Swartz Enters Poster Field

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 13.—Don Swartz, who recently resigned as executive secretary of North Central Allied, has purchased the Independent Poster Exchange, here, from M. J. Lipp of Chicago and has signed a contract to distribute Filmack trailers in the Minneapolis zone.

Swartz will retain Kelly Evidon as manager of the concern and Marty Braverman as sales manager.

'White Collarites' To Ask $15, or 30%

The United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, parent union of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109, and the Screen Publicists Guild, Local No. 114, has pledged a fight for wage increases of 30 per cent, or $15 a week, whichever is greater, to restore "white collar" living standards to 1939 levels, as a result of a general executive board and "extraordinary policy" conference held here.

Other phases of the collective bargaining policy drafted are: a $35 minimum for a 35-hour week for beginning clerical jobs of the lowest skill; special occupational and professional minimums and "appropriate" salary scales and job classification systems for all salaried employes.

The meetings also drew up a legislative program and, in addition, mapped a resolution on stepping up the tempo of unionization, including a provision for "stimulation and cordination of organization nationally".

Tulsa Withholds Tax

TULSA, Okla., Jan. 13.—Despite the preparation of a bill to tax local theatres, action has been held in abeyance because of the united front of exhibitors and their submission of an alternative plan for raising money by the city. The city admittedly is sorely in need of funds, but exhibitor spokesmen hope that an admission tax has been dropped permanently.

Warner and Yates In Stock Deals

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13.—The Securities and Exchange Commission's latest report reveals that Albert Warner vice-president of Warner Brothers has presented 2,900 shares of Warner common to Jewish charities with 2,000 shares going to the United Jewish Appeal and 900 to the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. According to current market prices the 2,900 shares are worth about $47,000. Warner now holds 426,100 shares.

The SEC report also discloses that Herbert J. Yates, Republic president, acquired 6,100 shares of Republic Pictures, bringing his total to 33,600 shares. Omsrud, Inc., a holding company, reported possession 86,950 shares, the Antosen Realty Corp. reported 14,685 shares.

Stephen Callahan, Nek York acquired 200 shares of Paramount common, Henry Ginsberg sold 500 shares, and William H. and John D. Ginsberg reported holding 200 shares. Abraham Schneider disposed of 260 shares of Columbia Pictures, holding 12,974 and A. Montague reported presenting 188 shares of Columbia to charity.

Albert Warner Buys 11,300 More Shares

Albert Warner, vice-president and treasurer of Warner Bros. Pictures, has purchased an additional 11,300 common shares of the company, the New York Stock Exchange reported.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BALTIMORE

A momentum during the holidays continues for first-run theatres here. Business is generally better than average, with strong attractions and mostly favorable weather. There is little outside competition. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16:

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $12,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) Gross: $27,000. (Average: $17,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) 8 days, 2nd week, with stage show. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER (Siritsky)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)

PITTSBURGH

Three holdovers are doing good business here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16:

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,700)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $11,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on moveover from Warner. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $3,500)
SUSPICION (RKO Radio reissue) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $3,200)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $25,000)
HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,000)

CINCINNATI

Tops in gross for straight films goes to "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim" at the RKO Grand, where an expected plus double house average is in sight. The other houses, with holdovers predominating, are recording generally satisfactory returns. The weather is unusually mild. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 14-17:

THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-60c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Stage: Kathryn Grayson, Johnnie Johnston and acts. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $10,000)
TERROR HOUSE (PRC) and WILD WEST (PRC)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (39c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,800. (Average: $1,600)
TICKET TO CRIME (PRC) and I COVER CHINATOWN (PRC)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (39c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,200. (Average: $1,100)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 3rd week, on a moveover from the Shubert, following opening week at the Palace. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover after two weeks at the Grand. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,000)

ATLANTA

Business has been good only in spots. The weather has been bad. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16:

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c). Gross: $12,500. (Average: $13,000)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c). Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,200)
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $5,700. (Average: $5,600)
THE FALCON'S ALIBI (RKO Radio) and SHADOWS OVER CHINATOWN (Mono.)—CAPITAL (2,446) (44c-50c). Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,200)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (50c-60c) 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,000)

OMAHA

Business is holding up fairly well. The weather has been milder than in recent weeks. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15-16:

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) and THE MYSTERIOUS MR. VALENTINE (Rep.)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week, for "The Time, the Place and the Girl," moveover from Paramount. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $8,600)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $9,400)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,900. (Average: $11,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $6,800)

TORONTO

Far better weather conditions returned to Toronto after a disagreeable week, and the downtown theatres were again popular meccas, even though three of them had holdovers. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15-17:

WATZ TIME (PRC)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $4,700)
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $18,800. (Average: $14,300)
UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $13,300)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,600. (Average: $14,600)
TEMPTATION (U)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,900. (Average: $11,400)
WALTZ TIME (PRC)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $6,800)

Review

"Sinbad, the Sailor"

(RKO Radio)

RKO RADIO here has a solid, commercial show in an elaborately produced piece of imagination about one of the fabulous voyages of the fabulous Sinbad the sailor, whose adventures are chronicled in "Arabian Nights." The imagination is credited to an original story by John Twist and George Worthing Yates with the former's hand continuing in the proceedings as fabricator of the screenplay.

It is never difficult to reduce this version of "Sinbad" to Hollywood's widely-applied and oft-repeated cops-and-robbers formula although the influence of law and order is on the pale side. That's what goes on here, only it's in Technicolor and legend.

Everyone of any importance weaving in and out of whatever dramatic fabric is on display is after the fabled jewels cached by Alexander the Great on the little known island of Deryabar. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., as Sinbad, is on the prowl and so, too, are Anthony Quinn as the Emir of Daibul and Walter Slezak, a Chinese with a discernible Continental accent and parading as Melik when actually he is Jamal, the only one of the lot who knows how to locate the elusive isle. Maureen O'Hara, impeccable in appearance and gowned to the best advantage of her natural endowments, is the love interest which makes matters very easy on the optics. She's for Fairbanks and vice versa.

The uncertain history of his eighth voyage is narrated by Fairbanks to a group of listeners on the beach at Basra, as per above. If they are inclined to regard Fairbanks as an unmitigated liar, they're closer to the truth than ever he was except for the fact his tale done, Miss O'Hara is by his side. Maybe it happened after all.

Before the finale, however, there is adventure on land and sea, Slezak's death by poison which he had designed for Quinn and the latter's fade-out under the ascending, blazing curve of a fireball ricocheted from the decks of his own ship. Moreover, it turns out that Alexander buried not treasure, but baubles. True treasure, it is explained philosophically, is found only in the hearts of people.

Fairbanks gives a performance, consciously or otherwise patterned after the exploits of his father; he makes a dashing figure in the romantic mood. Other performances, like the attraction itself, are standard. Dialogue, it is understandable, had to be in the flowery vein. Never easy at best to make convincing, results in this direction are not what they might have been.

Since the story base combines legend and fantasy, there appears to be no discernible reason why treatment and direction might not have been far more imaginative. Had this prevailed, "Sinbad, the Sailor" could have emerged with greater distinction. However, the film is very good to look at, has the advantage of being alone in the field as to type, and is earmarked with all evidence of a big-scale production job. These are factors much in its favor and not to be ignored. George Barnes, as director of photography, did an excellent job behind the camera. Stephan Ames produced and Richard Wallace directed.

Running time, 117 minutes. General audience classification. Released as a special; no release date set.

RED KANN

NY First-Run Grosses Good

New York first-run business is good this week although short of the unusually high incomes enjoyed by many situations the past two weeks.

Turning in the neatest boxoffice performance at present is "The Best Years of Our Lives" at the Victor where a phenomenal $58,000 is anticipated for the eighth week. This is $3,000 over the previous week. At the Music Hall, "Till the Clouds Roll By" and the stage presentation figure to bring a substantial $118,000 in a sixth week. "The Yearling" probably will follow on Jan. 23.

"Humoresque" is doing nicely at the Hollywood where a third week's gross of $38,000 is looked for; the film brought $29,300 in the first five days of the week, which ends tonight. At the Strand, "The Time, the Place and the Girl" with Vaughn Monroe's orchestra is doing fair enough with $53,000 indicated for a third week; the four-day weekend brought in $37,500.

"Stairway to Heaven" continues to draw top money at the Park where $19,000 is expected for a third week; this is about $4,000 under capacity for the house. "The Wicked Lady" is paying off fairly well at the Winter Garden with an estimated $20,000 in sight for a fourth week.

"It's a Wonderful Life" provided the Globe with a handsome $18,400 on Saturday and Sunday and the total for the fourth week should be in the neighborhood of $33,400, which is very good.

"The Secret Heart" and Tommy Dorsey's orchestra are good for about $62,000 in the third week at the Capitol. "Cross My Heart" with the Andrews Sister is down to an unimportant $60,000, estimated, in a third and final week at the Paramount; "The Perfect Marriage" will open there tomorrow with the Mills Brothers on the stage.

"Love Laughs at Andy Hardy" is on its way to a fairly healthy gross of $26,000 in a first week at the Criterion. Another new one, "Murder in Reverse," is going over very well at the Rialto and will probably wind up the first week with a relatively high $11,000.

"My Darling Clementine" fell below par at the Rivoli with only $15,000 expected; "California" will succeed it today. "Ladies' Man" is fairly strong at the Gotham where $6,100 was taken in on Saturday and Sunday, indicating about $15,000 for the week. Drawing about equally well is "The Beast With Five Fingers," which should reach $13,000 in a third week at the Victoria.

"Song of the South" at the Palace is holding up to expectations with $23,800 apparent for the seventh week; "Sinbad the Sailor" will follow on Jan. 22. "Henry V" is still profitable at the John Golden Theatre; the 20th week figures to bring in $10,000, the film having originally played 10 weeks at the City Center.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

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MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA,
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(6 COPIES)

Names . . . *in Today's News*

BARNEY BALABAN, president of Paramount Pictures, has been named national chairman of the motion picture division in the nationwide $170,000,000 campaign of the 1947 United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine, by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the UJA. Balaban said that key leaders on both coasts are being invited to serve with him on a divisional committe to mobilize the industry for the relief, resettlement and reconstruction of Europe's 1,500,000 destitute Jewish survivors.

Barney Balaban

Marcus Is Promoted to Manager in Milwaukee

Nat Marcus, formerly a salesman, has been named Warner branch manager at the Milwaukee exchange succeeding Don Woods, who was promoted to manager in Dallas, Ben Kalmenson, WB distribution vice-president, announced here yesterday.

Marcus joined Warners five years ago as a salesman in the Pittsburgh office. He was transferred to the Milwaukee sales staff in Sept., 1944.

Kenneth MacKenna in New Post at M-G-M's Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14. — Kenneth MacKenna, veteran actor, director and writer, was named today as associate to Voldemar Vetlugun, story head at M-G-M's Culver City studio.

NYC Admission Tax Is 'Out' for 1947

A motion picture theatre admissions tax will not be levied by the City of New York in 1947, notwithstanding city comptroller Lazarus Joseph's recent statement indicating that the city must provide $90,000,000 this year over current budgetary expenses, and that there will be an increase in the city's real estate tax rate unless additional state aid is forthcoming, the comptroller's office discloses.

Propose End Of Quota for Distributors

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 14. — Complete abolition of the British quota as it applies to distributors is recommended by the British Film Producers' Association, which today made known a complete recommended program for a new quota law to take the place of the existing one, which expires in 1948.

The BFPA, thereby, becomes the first trade association in the country to issue a memorandum for a new quota and submit it to the British Board of Trade.

The second principal BFPA recommendation would have the exhibitors'

(*Continued on page 7*)

Marx on UA Board Succeeding Agnew

Henry M. Marx, New York attorney, yesterday was elected to the board of United Artists to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Neil F. Agnew.

Marx is associated with the law office of Milton Kramer, attorney for David O. Selznick. The election took

(*Continued on page 6*)

Solon Would Abolish Top-Salary Notices

Washington, Jan. 14.—Income payments to persons in the above $75,000 per year salary bracket should not be made public by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Congressman Norris Poolson of Los Angeles said here. The California lawmaker asserted that if income reports of one segment of the population are made public, then all reports should be published.

Poolson said he plans to seek a revision in the law which requires the Treasury to publish income reports above $75,000.

CSA Meeting On Appeal

Executive committee of the Confederacy of Southern Associations will meet in St. Augustine, Fla., early next month to decide on a possible appeal to the Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's denial of the CSA's intervention petition in the industry anti-trust suit, according to George B. Brooks of the law firm of Jackson, Nash, Brophy, Barringer and Brooks, local counsel for the exhibitor organization.

CSA sought to intervene in the New York suit for the purpose of opposing competitive film bidding, as did the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Wehrenberg Canvasses Film Heads Here on M.P. Forum

The views of distribution company executives and others on the proposed Motion Picture Forum were solicited here yesterday by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, and Herman Levy, general counsel, preparatory to the meeting of the MPTOA board of directors in St. Louis next Tuesday at which plans for the Forum will be discussed.

Wehrenberg reported that in addition to ascertaining the attitude of key distribution executives toward the Forum, he also had requested their opinions on whether the proposed organization should be established immediately or should be held in abeyance pending possible appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court, and their de-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Exhibitor Groups to Aid Greek Orphans

Heads of independent exhibitor groups yesterday gave their support with other industry leaders in the Feb. 15-March 15 appeal to "adopt a Greek War Orphan for every theatre in the nation," in honor of Spyros Skouras.

Rescue of 15,000 orphans, at least, seemed assured at a luncheon, held in the Hotel Astor, where the general executive committee headed by Tom Connors of 20th Century-Fox; Ned Depinet, RKO; Jack Cohn, Columbia, and Si Fabian, were hosts to Jack Kirsch, president of Allied States; Fred Wehrenberg, president of

(*Continued on page 6*)

GOP Decides To Retain Excise Levies

Admission, Other Levies To Run Another Year

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. — In a complete reversal of its original intention, the Republican majority in Congress has agreed to keep the wartime 20 per cent theatre admission tax, and the other wartime excise levies, in effect for one year beyond their July 1 expiration date. The so-called peacetime admission tax was 10 per cent.

President Truman has recommended that the excise levies resulting from the war be continued beyond July 1, but he did not specify for how long. Congressional legislation will be required to continue the taxes.

After looking over tax prospects for the coming fiscal year, GOP leaders now contend that the first

(*Continued on page 6*)

Color, High-Budget Films for Monogram

Expansion of product, in the face of higher production costs and the limitations of facilities, is the keynote of Monogram's "most ambitious" production schedule charted for the fiscal year ending June 30, according to Steve Broidy, president, who outlined yesterday a program which would continue the output of low-budget pictures and also take Monogram into the high-budget field.

With Roy Del Ruth's $1,300,000

(*Continued on page 6*)

Quigley Addresses Boston Institute

BOSTON, Jan. 14.—Martin Quigley today addressed the Boston Institute of Religious and Social Studies at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the subject, "The Movies as Entertainment." The address was in a series under the general title, "Communication of Ideas." Talcott

(*Continued on page 7*)

Personal Mention

STANTON GRIFFIS, chairman of the Paramount executive committee, has been nominated by Gov. Dewey of New York to fill a five-year term as a trustee of Cornell University.

•

ARTHUR KRIM, Eagle-Lion president, who has been attending meetings of Pathe Industries, E-L parent company, here, will arrive in California on Thursday from New York.

•

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE international president, has left New York for Detroit; he will return on Friday.

•

LESTER COLEMAN, assistant to GEORGE E. SMITH, Paramount Western division sales manager, will leave here for Los Angeles tonight.

•

RAY MURRAY, Columbia trade press representative, here, is on the sick list.

•

GERALD MAYER, director of the Motion Picture Association's international division, will return to New York from Hollywood at the end of the week.

•

GEORGE D. BURROWS, Monogram executive vice-president and treasurer, has left New York for Hollywood.

•

ARTHUR LOEW will leave Hollywood today for New York.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, will return here next week from Miami.

Miss Tillman Moved Up at Film Classics

Jeannette Tillman, executive secretary to Eugene Arnstein, secretary and treasurer of Film Classics, has been promoted to head the purchasing department, where she will also be in charge of the transportation and accounts receivable department for Film Classics' branches. She will take over her duties this week.

Concurrently, Genevieve Moskowitz, formerly with Loew's, was elevated to Miss Tillman's former position.

Dismiss Copyright Suit

Supreme Court Justice Kenneth O'Brien in New York has granted the motion of Louis D. Frohlich, counsel for ASCAP, to dismiss the action of Perry Bradford against the Society. Bradford brought suit against Southern Music and ASCAP for $6,000,000,000, charging copyright conversion of 39 songs.

Levy Lobbies for MPTO

HARTFORD, Jan. 14.—Herman M. Levy of New Haven, MPTO general counsel, has registered as lobbyist for the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Connecticut, at the 1947 session of the Connecticut General Assembly, at the State Capitol here.

'Dimes' Campaign Will Begin Today

The March of Dimes, America's annual contribution to the elimination of infantile paralysis, starts today throughout the nation. Because of the fact that 1946 produced more cases of infantile paralysis in any year since the inception of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Basil O'Connor, president of the Foundation, has set a high goal of $24,000,000 for the 1947 drive, which will continue through Jan. 30.

The motion picture division will start its own Dimes drive on Jan. 24, when thousands of theatres will take audience collections at every performance. The drive in theatres will also continue through Jan. 30.

Emil C. Jensen, director of the motion picture division, announced yesterday that several additional circuits and more than 300 independent theatres joined the drive yesterday, among them being Frisina Amusement Co., Illinois; R. D. Goldberg Theatres, Omaha; Hunts Theatres, Inc., New Jersey; Ralph E. Snider Theatrical Enterprises, Massachusetts; Sunny-Mount Theatres, California.

Truman and Screen Stars On 'Dimes' Broadcast

President Harry S. Truman will deliver a special address from Washington, and stars of screen, stage and radio will make personal appearances during a special broadcast to be presented in cooperation with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, on Thursday, Jan. 30, over the Yankee-Mutual stations.

Bateman to Conduct SGP Sales Parleys

F. A. Bateman, general sales manager of Screen Guild Productions, will preside over a series of company sales conferences in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago, slated to take place shortly.

Bateman is due to arrive here Jan. 20 for Eastern sales conferences with Robert L. Lippert, distribution chief of Screen Guild; William Pizor, foreign department head, and Nat Beier, Eastern sales representative. The Chicago meeting is due to get underway on Jan. 20, and the others shortly thereafter.

Cohn Flies Today to Two S.A. Conventions

Jack Cohn, Columbia's executive vice-president, will leave New York by plane today to attend two Columbia-International regional conventions—one in Rio de Janeiro, on Jan. 21, the other in Buenos Aires on Jan. 31.

Additionally, Cohn will visit company offices in Puerto Rico, Port of Spain, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Panama. He is due back in New York about Feb. 10.

Butterfield Promotion

Alfred C. Butterfield has been named editor of Pathe News by Frederic Ullman, and not Allyn Butterfield, as mentioned yesterday.

Al Wilkie Resigns From Paramount

Al Wilkie, Paramount publicity manager here for the past 17 years, has resigned, effective on Friday, and will announce a new affiliation upon his return from a vacation in the South, about April 1. Wilkie will remain in New York until around Feb. 1. A successor to the post of publicity manager is expected to be named next week, according to Curtis Mitchell, Paramount's national director of advertising and publicity.

Before coming to New York to take over his present duties, Wilkie was associated in Hollywood with the old Famous Players-Lasky studio and the original Goldwyn studio in Culver City. He also served as publicity director for Samuel Goldwyn Productions on the Coast.

Story Production's 1st Through U. A.

Negotiations between Story Productions and United Artists have concluded with a contract calling for the release of "This Side of Innocence," signed by Armand S. Deutsch and Hal Horne for Story Productions and Edward C. Raftery, president, for United Artists.

Horne will produce the picture from a script now being prepared by Leonardo Bercovici, based on the Taylor Caldwell novel. With Horne and Deutsch currently negotiating for talent, present plans call for production to start in early spring.

Maas Due Tomorrow On Cunard Liner

Irving Maas, vice-president and general manager of the Motion Picture Export Association, returning from a 12-week tour of MPEA offices and territories in Europe, is due in New York tomorrow when the *Queen Elizabeth* docks.

Also on board are Frank Farley, Paramount executive; John Gielgud, actor and Katina Paxinou, actress. James E. Perkins, Paramount distribution executive, is also understood to be among the passengers.

Doris Blumberg Weds

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—Doris Jean Blumberg, daughter Mr. and Mrs. Nate J. Blumberg, and Stanley Meyer, son Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meyer, were married today at Blumberg estate with 400 guests in attendance. Rabbi Sidney Goldstein officiated at a double ring ceremony.

ATS Meets Today

The next meeting of the American Television Society will be held at the Hotel Barbizon-Plaza here tonight at eight. The speaker will be Paul Belanger, who received the Television Broadcast Association award for the outstanding artistic program, "Dance in Television."

Newsreel Parade

STATECRAFT, sports, air show thrills and the demonstration of a new fire escape device are spotlighted in current newsreels. Personalities in the foreground include Senator Vandenburg, former-Secretary of State Byrnes, Gen. MacArthur, and Princess Elizabeth and her fiance; complete synopses follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 40—Senator Vandenburg affirms U. S. policy on atomic bomb. Reports from Japan. Inventor shows new device for saving lives in hotel fires. Hat-stylist Lew Lehr finds out how to criticize. Golden Glove bouts.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 238—Report on disarmament. Explosion of wartime sodium. Miami air show thrills. French decorate MacArthur. Democracy at work in Japan. New life-saving device. Canada's governor-general learns skiing. Golden Glovers.

PARAMOUNT NEWS No. 41—Winter sports. Hotels seek way to reduce fire menace. Paris shows precious gowns. News from Japan. Miami air show.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 43—News about Princess Elizabeth and Prince Humbert. Byrnes reviews U. S. policy. Skating at Wembley, Eng. Big Army store opened. British war brides.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 4—Byrnes calls for real peace. Half million Japs protest new cabinet. Explosion in sodium dump. Inventor demonstrates fire escape device. Golden Glove preliminaries. Miami air show.

SCTOA Authorizes Appeal in N. Y. Suit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—Directors of the Southern California Theatre Owners' Association have authorized that an appeal should be taken to the U. S. Supreme Court on the New York decree. SCTOA will join with American Theatres Association in the same manner it did on a petition to intervene in the suit, and efforts will be made to have a stay introduced against the institution of competitive bidding until the matter is decided by the Supreme Court.

(Neither ATA nor any other nonparty to the New York suit has a right to appeal. ATA is appealing from the New York court's denial of its petition to intervene in the case, which, if granted, will make it a party to the suit. The Department of Justice opposes all such petitions as the ATA's.)

Research Program Launched by AMPP

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—Directors of the Association of Motion Picture Producers have appropriated $150,000 to launch an all-industry research program, first announced when Byron Price joined the MPA.

The board also elected Leo Spitz a member as Universal-International representative to succeed Cliff Work, resigned.

PRC 6 Months Ahead

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—With 20 pictures completed or editing, PRC is six months ahead of 1947 production schedule, President Harry H. Thomas announced.

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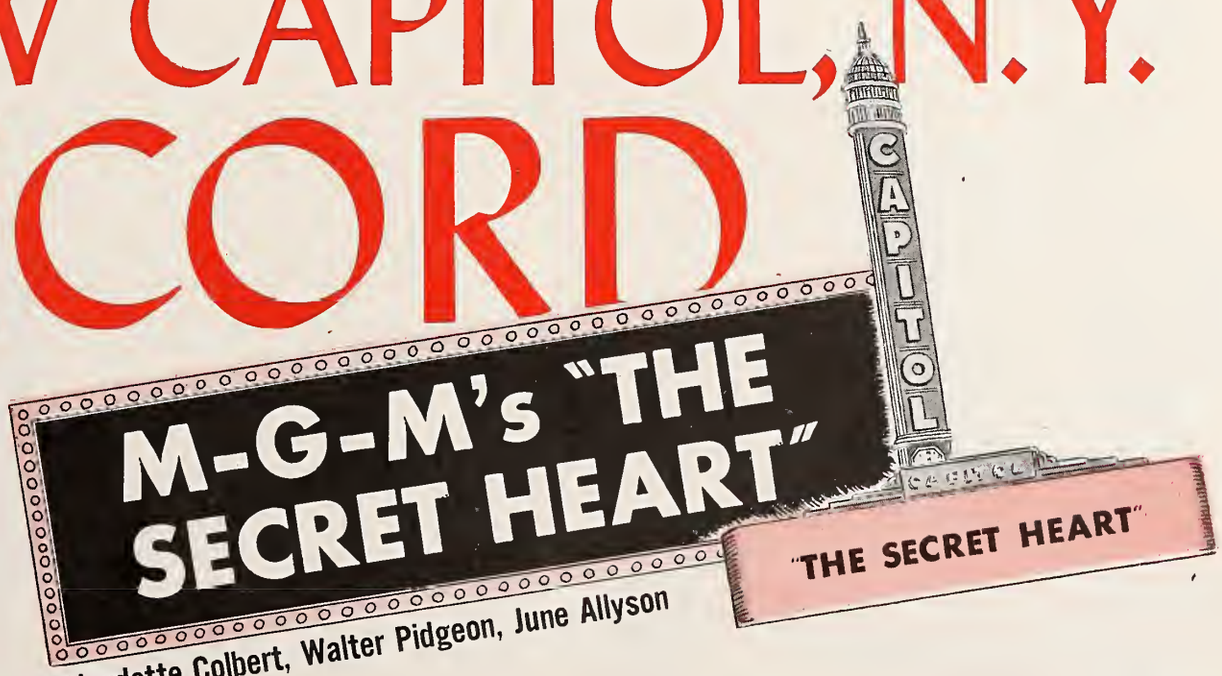
NEW MUSIC HALL RECORD

Van Johnson, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, June Allyson, Robert Walker, Kathryn Grayson, Van Heflin, Dinah Shore, Lucille Bremer, Lena Horne, Angela Lansbury, Tony Martin, Virginia O'Brien

Takes the edge off all past box-office marks by doing the biggest week's business of any theatre, anywhere at any time! Also rolled up biggest 4-week total in Music Hall history!

NEW CAPITOL, N.Y. RECORD



Claudette Colbert, Walter Pidgeon, June Allyson

It has set a new all-time high, the biggest week's business in the 27-year history of the Capitol Theatre.

THE BIG ONES COME FROM M-G-M

(TBOCFMGM)

B. & K. Great States Hold 2-Day Meeting

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—With John Balaban, who is both secretary and treasurer of B. and K., as well as of Great States Theatres, and Henry C. Sticklemaier, recently raised to division manager of Northern Illinois and Toledo, for Great States, alternating as chairmen, the Great States circuit today concluded a two-day meeting at the Palmer House with 46 city managers from Illinois, Indiana and Toledo present.

Another top executive here for the meeting was David C. Wallerstein, recently promoted to division manager of the circuit's Houses in Central and Southern Illinois, as well as continuing his post as supervisor over Indiana theatres.

Other speakers included Maurice M. Rubens, who discussed advertising, exploitation, accident and fire prevention, legislation and theatre care; A. L. Trebow, purchasing agent; R. P. Burns, in charge of sound; Claude B. Rubens, in charge of maintenance for Great States; Elmer C. Upton, assistant secretary and treasurer for both circuits, who discussed insurance; C. L. Brundahl, comptroller, whose topic was payrolls and box-office reports; Morris G. Leonard, who spoke on labor and legislation; Arthur Goldberg, who discussed the new Government decree; Ray Carsky, in charge of merchandising, who discussed confection lobby sales; John Dromey, in charge of booking and buying for Great States.

Goldwyn Gives $50,000

A gift of $50,000 by Samuel Goldwyn from the proceeds of his "The Best Years of Our Lives" was announced here yesterday at campaign headquarters of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center Fund.

Distributors Shape Minneapolis Case

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 14. — Although answers have not yet been filed by defendants in the $1,300,000 anti-trust suit brought by Ben Berger's Duluth Theatre Corp. and the Lyceum Building Corp., filed recently in District Court, Minneapolis, talk of distributor agents indicates the film company defense will bank heavily on the contention that Berger was sold the run which he asked for the Lyceum. "Berger never asked for any other run than the one he bought for the Lyceum," is the substance of the replies to inquiries. They also point out the house was closed for some time after the Minnesota Amusement Co. dropped the stand when its lease ran out, and again, later, when Berger could not get together immediately with the projectionists union on a scale and working conditions for the Lyceum.

Bellamy to Red Cross

Ralph Bellamy has accepted the chairmanship of the theatre division of the American Red Cross 1947 Fund. Bellamy headed the drive last year when the theatre division established a record for Red Cross contributions.

STATEWIDE WORLD PREMIERE—"IT'S A JOKE, SON!"

Austin, Paramount, Jan. 21; San Antonio, Aztec, Jan. 22; Houston, Metropolitan, Jan. 23; Dallas, Majestic, Jan. 24; Fort Worth, Hollywood, Jan. 25.

'Miracle of Bells' Heads Lasky Slate

Jesse L. Lasky, independent producer, has given top priority on his schedule to production of Russell Janney's novel, "The Miracle of the Bells," in order to put it before the cameras by April 15. The picture, one of three by Lasky for RKO Radio distribution, is expected to cost about $2,000,000 and will be released at Christmas time.

Explaining that he has stepped up his schedule in order to cash in on public interest, Lasky declared here that producers have been "losing out" on properties which have captured public interest because top-selling novels often remain too long on the shelves while letting public interest lag. Therefore, he added, he postponed further operations on "Intermission" until July.

Lasky, who is scheduled to leave here tomorrow for Hollywood, also revealed that a nationwide talent search for an "unknown" to play the top female role of the novel will be started soon. Fred MacMurray has been engaged for the press agent characterization, he continued, and Ben Hecht and Quentin Reynolds are now at work on the scenario.

5 Mexican Houses Shut Over City Tax

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 14. — A shutdown of five theatres in Torreon in protest against a special tax of 10 per cent on grosses, enacted by the municipal government, has received expressions of support from the entire Mexican industry. Exhibitors closed as soon as they were officially informed that the tax would stand.

The striking theatremen, who insist that they will remain closed until the tax is lifted, are continuing to pay their employes full wages. Not only theatres, but also distributors, including some of American companies operating here, are feeling the effect of the shutdown.

Threats by the exhibitors' national association to close Mexico's 1,248 theatres in sympathy have not materialized, and it is understood that there will be no national strike. However, the industry has indicated that it intends to do all it can to coax the Torreon government to rescind the tax, in order to discourage other municipalties from instituting similar theatre taxes. Torreon, a wealthy north central city and center of Mexico's largest cotton zone, is one of this country's best theatre towns.

The affected exhibitors estimate the 10 per cent levy, added to other taxes, takes 25 per cent of their grosses.

'Best Years' Heads For $55,000 Week

Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" grossed $10,090 last Saturday, $8,064 last Sunday, and is heading for close to $55,000 for its eighth week ending tomorrow, at the Astor, the Goldwyn office in New York reports. The film plays six shows a day and these figures, the company states, surpass the record of any previous picture at the theatre, most other pictures having played nine shows daily.

2 AAA Tribunals In Award Rulings

Two awards have been filed by American Arbitration Association tribunals, one in a complaint naming Paramount in which Morris Nuger, operator of the Grand Theatre in Charlotte, who sought to obtain a first-run license for that company's product, and the other a clearance case in Boston, naming M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO Radio and Warners.

Decision of the arbitrator in the Charlotte complaint held that the complainant was not entitled to the relief sought because the Lincoln Theatre, operated by the Bijou Amusement circuit, "can, has, and will pay a considerably large price" for first-run Paramount product.

Emphasizing that the consent decree had as its purpose "definite protection to the independent theatre in its bargaining powers, as opposed to the circuit theatre," the arbitrator said, in ruling against the complainant, an independent operator, that he could not conclude, on the other hand, that "the decree lays on the producers and distributors the burden of having to sell their product to an independent theatre at a far less rental than they can get from a circuit theatre."

In the Boston case, Latchis Theatres of Keene, N. H., asked for reduction or elimination of the 30 days clearance to which it is subject in favor of the State Operating Co., Manchester, and Colonial Theatres Co., Nashua, on first-run product of five distributing companies. The arbitrator's decision held that contracts between the intervenors and respondents could provide, henceforth, for maximum clearance of 30 days, "but, in any event, no more than 30 days after territorial release date." He also ruled that no clearance in the form of priority of run should be granted in licenses of those five companies

Minnesota Family Reunited; All 9 Children Beat Polio

Randall, Minn., Dec. 24 (AP).—The Christmas cup of joy was overflowing today in the Frank Anders household.

Three months ago the nine Anders children were stricken, one by one, by infantile paralysis.

Today all nine were able to gather around the Christmas tree in their small farm home near here—all recovered or nearly recovered from the dread disease.

Eldest Home One Day.

Ronald, 18, the eldest, returned home only yesterday from Gillette State Hospital for Crippled Children in St. Paul. He had been there since shortly after he was stricken Sept. 19.

After he became ill all his brothers and sisters—Jim, 15; Cecilia, 14; Richard, 12; Margaret, 10; Christine, 9; Walter, 7; Robert, 4; and Charles, a year old—were struck down in turn.

All but two spent varying periods in hospitals. Christine, who became expert in the hot pack method of treatment, helped care for her brothers and sisters after her partial recovery.

After the onset of the disease, Anders insisted on paying the bills as long as he was able. But the $400 to which his hospital insurance entitled him was quickly exhausted.

March of Dimes Paid.

At that point the March of Dimes fund for infantile paralysis stepped in and is paying costs of treatment, expected to run to several thousand dollars.

Records of the foundation show that the Anders case is the only one on record in which so many members of a single family have suffered from the disease.

By r-

Fight INFANTILE PARALYSIS

MOTION PICTURE DRIVE JAN. 24-30

Join the MARCH OF DIMES

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

M. P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

termination, from the New York Federal court decree.

The MPTOA president, who originated the Forum plan, declined to reveal the results of his talks with company executives in advance of his report to the MPTOA board next week but indicated that the reactions he had obtained were fundamentally favorable. However, it is believed that some companies which are parties to the government anti-trust suit would prefer not to take an active part in the proposed organization until such time as the Supreme Court has disposed of any appeals which may be filed in the New York case.

Wehrenberg had stated earlier that he preferred an immediate start on the Forum providing other interested parties were willing. He indicated yesterday that a final decision on this, insofar as MPTOA was concerned, would be left to the latter's board at its St. Louis meeting next week.

Wehrenberg and Levy were in New York from St. Louis and New Haven, respectively, to attend a luncheon meeting for exhibitor representatives on the industry campaign to "adopt" Greek orphans for one year, in conjunction with Greek War Relief. Wehrenberg said he heartily approved of the campaign and would recommend its adoption and support by the MPTOA board next week.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, who was suggested by Fred Wehrenberg for moderator of the proposed Motion Picture Forum to hear and endeavor to solve internal industry problems and grievances, would be disinclined to participate in advance of possible Supreme Court action on the New York decree, a spokesman in Johnston's office here said today.

Roth New SPG Head; Installation Tonight

Leon Roth has been elected president of the Screen Publicists Guild, succeeding Roger Lewis, and will be installed, along with other new officers, at a meeting in the Piccadilly Hotel here tonight.

Philip Gerard has been named first vice-president; Ben Wertheim, second vice-president; Helen Gwynn, secretary, and Herman Silver, treasurer.

Rites for Phil Caplan

DETROIT, Jan. 14.—Funeral services were held here today for Phil Caplan, head of Theatrical Advertising Co. for 37 years, who died of a heart attack on Saturday.

Coast Prefabricated House a 'Forerunner'

Hollywood, Jan. 14. — Described by National Theatres president Charles Skouras as 'the forerunner of hundreds of such showhouses that will soon be going up throughout the world," Long Beach's Crest Theatre, the first prefabricated house there will be opened by the circuit on Jan. 23 with typical Hollywood premiere trappings, screen stars, floodlights, grandstand seats for the public, etc.

With Henry Kaiser, "we have taken a great step in advancement, which will certainly gain for this section of the nation another outstanding recognition in the march of progress," Skouras said referring to construction of the theatre.

Monogram

(*Continued from page* 1)

production, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," as its first release, the newly-formed Allied Artists Productions will embark on its designated object of handling high-budget pictures exclusively, he added.

In the 26 weeks ending last Dec. 31, Broidy declared, Monogram's foreign earnings outdistanced its domestic "take," with the foreign market accounting for a boost of 130 per cent, against a domestic rise of 24 per cent.

As an index to the broadening of the company's 1946-1947 schedule, Broidy pointed to the projected 200 per cent increase set for advertising and promotion, to reach a sum expected to top $1,500,000. Another indication is that Monogram will venture into color production, using Cinecolor, he added.

"In no way will we minimize the number and quality of our 'B' pictures," Broidy insisted. "In fact," he added, "if we had ample studio space, we would have more of them than is now scheduled."

MGM Gets Shanghai's Roxy as First-Run

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has purchased the Roxy Theatre in Shanghai, China, it was announced here yesterday by Morton A. Spring, vice-president of Loew's International Corp. and in charge of all M-G-M sales and theatre operations abroad. Under the direction of Tommy Farrell, M-G-M manager for China, it will be used as a first-run.

Don't sign ANY trailer contracts until you get full details of Filmack's NEW prevue trailer service. Write Filmack, 1327 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

Greek Orphans

(*Continued from page* 1)

MPTOA; Herman Levy, general counsel, MPTOA; Robert Coyne, American Theatres Association, and Harry Brandt, Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York.

A message from Robert H. Poole of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent theatres, announcing his intention to co-operate, was read by Connors. A similar message came from Al Lichtman, for Hollywood.

Also attending the luncheon were: George Xanthacky of Greek War Relief, Leon Bamberger, Ben Serkowich, William Plunkett, Philip Harling and Harry Kalmine.

Plans for selection of key-city committees to make localized contacts were adopted. In a few days, the industry's network for complete coverage of the nation by personal contact through salesmen and theatre owners will be ready. Contributions will be solicited exclusively from employers and owners within the industry.

GOP to Keep Taxes

(*Continued from page* 1)

priority of reduction should be given to income tax rates. After making a study of revenue, the Congressmen agree that it will be impossible to make a 20 per cent income tax cut and at the same time slash excise rates.

It is learned that a resolution will be introduced, having the support of the majority party, which would "freeze" the wartime excise rates until July 1, 1948.

The GOP action is looked upon as a victory for the President, who assumed last Friday that Congress would ignore his plea for continuation of the war rates.

U. A. Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

place at a meeting of United Artists directors at the home office at which the expected discussion of the company's current controversy with Selznick failed to materialize.

The board heard a report by George E. Bagnall, U. A. production manager, who is here from Hollywood, on the 35 feature productions which U. A. has completed or planned for the current year.

The company's legal committee made an interim report on developments in consequence of the Selznick controversy but the report was described as "purely routine."

Mann in Steffes Deal

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 14.—Ted Mann, operating head of the Guttman-Mann circuit in the Twin Cities and Durand, Wis., is revealed as one of the associates of George Granstrom, who last week purchased the World and Alvin theatres in Minneapolis from the late W. A. Steffes estate for a price reported in excess of $200,000.

Hurst in Rank Contract

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Brian Hurst has announced here that he is bound by a contract with J. Arthur Rank for three years and cannot be a director of Mercury Films. Hurst was named as a member of the board of the newly-formed company, according to a dispatch in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Friday.

Variety Delegates Arriving in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 14. — The vanguard of some 60 Variety Club delegates have started arriving here from various U. S. cities to attend a four-day meeting during which the first Variety Club of Mexico will be inaugurated, at the Hotel Reforma. Robert J. O'Donnell, general manager of Interstate Theatres, Dallas, and head of National Variety, leads the U. S. delegation.

Business sessions will commence Thursday morning, an inauguration dinner will be held at two P. M. on the day in Ciro's in the Reforma, and a reception will be given that evening in the new Variety quarters on Calle del Sena. Members from both countries will be guests of N. Peter Rathvon, head of RKO, at a luncheon to be given at the latter's Mexico City studios on Friday, and all will attend a charity ball that evening at the El Patio. Saturday will be set aside for sight seeing; and Sunday will feature bull fights.

20th-Fox Has 23 on Tentative Schedule

Twentieth Century-Fox has 23 features, four of them reissues, in a new release schedule for the calendar year, as follows:

January, "13 Rue Madeleine," "Shocking Miss Pilgrim," and two reissues, "Les Miserables" and "Stanley and Livingston"; February, "Boomerang," "The Brasher Doubloon" and a reissue of "Alexander's Ragtime Band"; March, "Carnival in Costa Rica"; April, "The Late George Apley," "How Green Was My Valley" (reissue), and "The Homestretch"; May, "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" and "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now."

June, "Moss Rose" and "It's Only Human"; July, "Bob, Son of Battle"; August, "Kiss of Death" and "Nightmare Alley"; September, "Mother Wore Tights" and "The Deadly Percheron"; October, "Forever Amber"; "November, "Scudda Hoi Scudda Hay!"; December, "Captain from Castile."

Wade Nichols Resigns

Resignation of Wade H. Nichols is announced by Triangle Publications, Inc. A Triangle editor for over 10 years, Nicholas had turned out *Screen Guide, Stardom* and *Click,* and for the last nine months has been preparing material for projected new magazines, now deferred indefinitely. The company suspended *Screen Guide,* effective with the March issue.

Meet on RKO Pension

The RKO board of directors held an adjourned meeting here yesterday for a discussion of costs, to date, of maintaining the company's pension plan, according to J. Miller Walker, secretary.

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Quota

(Continued from page 1)

quota apply separately to top features and supporting productions. Also, it would have the quota apply not in terms of footage, but, rather, in the number of films shown each half-year; it would apply equally to 35mm. films and to 16 and eight-mm.

The Board of Trade would be empowered under the suggested law to reduce the quota of a particular theatre which proves its impossibility to abide by the quota owing to circuit opposition or which proves that it specializes in foreign-language films.

The quota would be rigidly enforced by legal proceedings. Also, it would compel Gaumont-British, Odeon and Associated British Cinemas—principal British circuits—to screen annually six British films in addition to their respective quota totals. The BFPA also asks that under a new law its representation on the BOT's Film Council be increased.

Number, Not Footage

Under the proposed quota, the BFPA suggests that it prescribe only a maximum and a minimum number of films to be screened, giving the BOT authority to determine the actual number required for any given half-year — this phase involving its suggestion that the quota apply in not terms of footage, as at present, but in a total number.

Regarding the organization's No. 1 recommendation, as mentioned, the BFPA maintains that a distributors' quota is no longer necessary in view of the improvement of the quantity and quality of British production. It is felt that the existing quota legislation as it applies to distributors is definitely harmful to the national interest of British filmgoers because it has encouraged the production in Britain of poor quality films, particularly by Americans, for the sole purpose of complying with the present statutory requirements. The BFPA adds that the artificial inducement is no longer necessary for foreign producers to make films in England, although they should not be legislatively restrained if for artistic or technical reasons they wish to do so.

Production on U. S. Par

The whole tone of the 6,000 memorandum is that British production now at least equals if not excels American product, and it stresses that under the existing quota setup it is both economically and culturally undesirable to continue it. Also, the document is plentifully studded with references to the "large proportion of money paid at British box-offices which has to be converted into dollars sent to America for Hollywood productions, while our people are kept short of food and other necessary goods due to a lack of dollars."

Continuing in this vein, the BFPA declares: "It is understood that serious-minded Americans are alarmed at the way which their country is misrepresented to the world through the artificiality of gangster and collegiate films.

"Concern is felt in America over the way so few American films can be selected for showing in Germany as being characteristic of the American way of life," says the BFPA adding: "The responsibility of film producers has been more strongly brought home in recent years to British rather than American producers.

A new type of British film has emerged with emphasis on truth and realism and the absence of 'tinsel.'

"Exhibitors are glad to have British films," the BFPA continues, "because of their quality. Nevertheless, some legislation is necessary to provide a reasonable protection against excessive imports from America." It is recommended that the new legislation be operative for 10 years, during which it is anticipated British production will increase enormously.

British exhibitors are expected to oppose bitterly the BFPA recommendation that the quota be abolished for distributors, fearing that would place independents entirely at the mercy of the combines.

British Ask ABC Be 'De-Americanized'

London, Jan. 14.—Recommendations for a new quota law submitted today by the British Film Producers Association to the Board of Trade contain the proposal that the Associated British Cinemas circuit of more than 400 theatres be "de-Americanized."

Warner Brothers own 37½ per cent of ABC, and the BFPA proposes that the British government "should take steps to amend this."

Nichols Warns US On British Films

Hollywood still leads the world in producing the "best" pictures, but in light of Britain's recent outstanding cinematic accomplishments Hollywood better pull up its socks to keep its leadership, in the opinion of RKO-Radio producer-writer-director Dudley Nichols, who left New York for the Coast yesterday with a script of "Mourning Becomes Electra" which received author Eugene O'Neill's "blessing" during Nichols' stay here. Monday, *Photoplay* magazine's gold medal script-writing award went to Nichols for his work on "The Bells of St. Mary's."

Along with praise for Britain's growing film stature, Nichols had some good words for French production and deplored the language barrier.

Hollywood's big handicap, he said, is sky-high production costs; but, he added, intramural "quarreling over petty matters" and increasing technical problems "also make things pretty tough."

Nichols' "Electra," which will go before the cameras on March 3, will be his 1947 contribution to RKO Radio under his one-picture-a-year contract. Nichols and the Theatre Guild will co-produce the film, Nichols will direct. Raymond Massey, Katina Paxinou, Rosalind Russell and others have already been signed for top parts, Nichols disclosed. The picture will be completed by next December, he said.

Mishkin to Assist Pincus at 20th

Meyer Mishkin, who has been associated with the 20th Century-Fox home office talent department for 10 years, yesterday was promoted to executive assistant to Joseph Pincus, head of the Eastern talent division.

CSA Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

American Theatres Association. Thurman Arnold, counsel for ATA, already has signified his intention of appealing from denial of the petition.

While awaiting a decision from the CSA executive committee, Brooks is going ahead with preliminary preparations for the appeal, which, if is to be made, must be filed by March 1.

In conjunction with Col. Robert T. Barton Jr. of Richmond, counsel for the CSA in the South, Brooks has completed a study of the final decree handed down by the New York court on Dec. 31. They find that the judges' intentions with regard to competitive bidding are made "reasonably clear," but they are "somewhat doubtful of the meaning of paragraph 8-a of section II, which says: "A license to exhibit each feature released for exhibition in any competitive area shall be offered to the operator of each theatre in such area who desires to exhibit it on some run (other than that upon which such feature is to be exhibited in the theatre of the licensor) selected by such operator, and upon uniform terms."

Guarantee of some run, originally suggested in court by distributor counsel as a possible alternative to competitive bidding, is regarded by CSA attorneys as a reasonable inclusion in the decree, but they feel that it is impractical to provide that the operator of each theatre shall have the power to select his run, inasmuch as prints are limited and clearance has been ruled by the court to be necessary.

Quigley Addresses

(Continued from page 1)

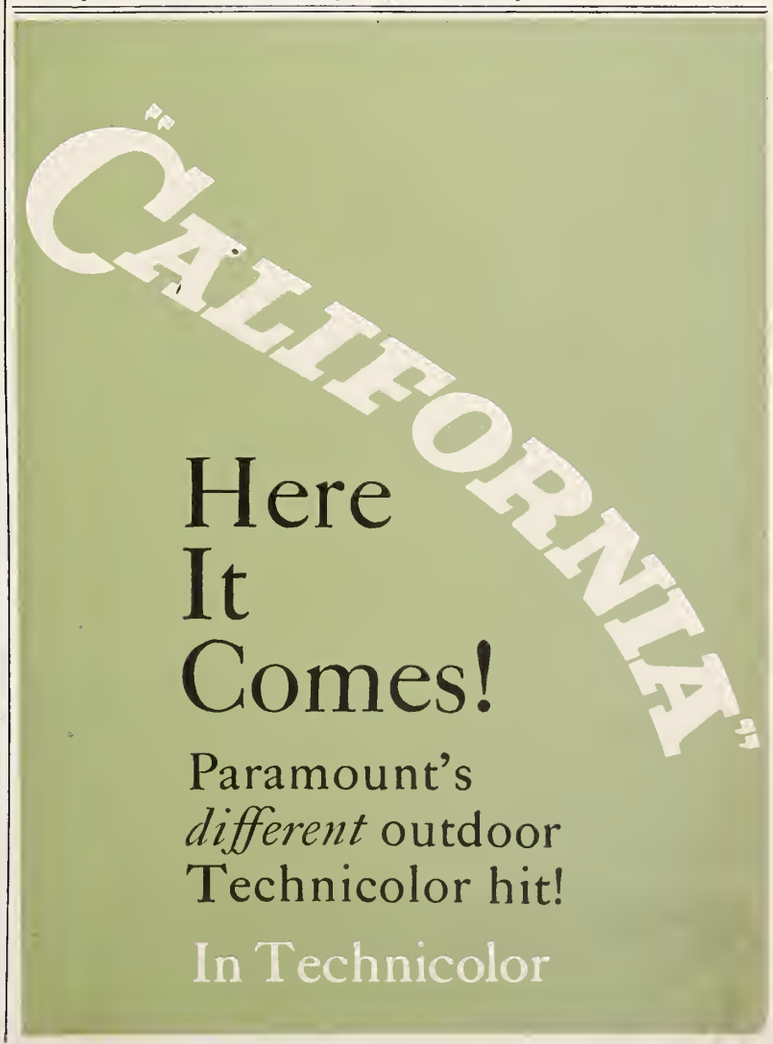
Parsons, professor of sociology, Harvard University, is chairman of the series.

Among the speakers in the series are: Harold D. Lasswell, professor of law, Yale University; Dr. Simon Greenberg, professor of education, Jewish Theological Seminary; Rev. David R. Dunigan, S.J., professor of education, Boston College; Lennox Grey, professor of English, Columbia University; Daniel R. Mich, executive editor, *Look* magazine; Harry Scherman, president, Book-of-the-Month Club, and Erwin D. Canham, editor, *Christian Science Monitor*.

The Institute was established at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1938. An extension was founded in Chicago in 1944 and is conducted in cooperation with the University of Chicago. In Jan., 1945, the Boston Institute was opened and is conducted in cooperation with the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Attendance at the series is limited to clergymen of the various faiths, accredited students in theological schools and other graduate students.

Truman Asks Funds For FCC Operations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. — President Truman today asked Congress to appropriate $9,000,000 for operation of the Federal Communications Commission during the coming fiscal year, which is the same fund alloted for the current year.



THE Film DAILY

Along the RIALTO

with PHIL M. DALY

Goldwyn: Maker of Trends

● ● ● THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY, taking stock of itself one of these days, will find, rather unexpectedly, that it owes Sam Goldwyn a curious debt.....Sam has talked a great deal, sometimes wisely and well and sometimes not.....Sometimes agreement with him has been easy; sometimes, anything but violent disagreement has been impossible.....But with it he has made good pictures.....He has stuck by his guns and he has refused to compromise and he has refused second bests.....That isn't the point, though.....

▼ ▼ ▼

● ● ● SOMEONE MAY MAKE a tabulation one of these days and determine the trends that his pictures have started—dating way back from the Ronald Colman-Vilma Banky (remember?) days, and those spectacular Eddie Cantor musicals, led by the wonderful "Kid from Spain," by "Dead End" in the vanguard of its type, by "Hurricane" and its sarong drama and by a dozen others in which Sam rejected formulas and flew in the face of the accepted beliefs of what was box office.....Sam's argument has always been that good pictures are good box office.....

▼ ▼ ▼

● ● ● IN THE CURRENT "The Best Years of Our Lives," Sam listened to the witch-doctors and the soothsayers who said that you can't make a war picture or a picture about veterans.....Sam probably agreed, but with the exception: only if it's a great picture..... Sam made a great picture and a successful picture.....Its grosses at the Astor in New York, at the Woods in Chicago, and in Boston and Los Angeles are already becoming an industry sensation, which is again beside the point.....

▼ ▼ ▼

● ● ● THE POINT IS THAT, in the gratitude of the motion picture industry, Sam has made it possible to make war pictures, and pictures about veterans—if they are GOOD pictures.....

▼ ▼ ▼

● ● ● SAM HAS DONE ANOTHER THING.....His contagious enthusiasm, which few can resist, produces results.....Sam believes in his picture.....He has attracted to "The Best Years of Our Lives" the support of powerful influences that can't help but do the picture —and, very importantly,—the whole industry good.....Such rare tributes as editorials in the New York Times and Colliers, a whole series of articles in the Readers Digest, a national radio sermon over the NBC network by Dr. Sockman and the New Year's Eve broadcast over CBS by the popular "Vox Pop" can't help but attract to the Goldwyn picture —and many other pictures to follow—the attention and interest of those infrequent and hard-to-get picture-goers whose patronage may some day be very important to the motion picture theater operator.....For those people, Sam has made "The Best Years of Our Lives" an event that is a thousand miles and a thousand years from the old nickelodeon days.....

▼ ▼ ▼

● ● ● SAM HAS BEEN CRITICIZED for charging $2.40 as an admission price for his picture, which is two hours and 45 minutes in length.....Only six shows a day can be given at the Astor, which puts a limit on the attendance.....Patrons were told last Saturday that there was a four-hour wait for seats, which is something.....Sam could cut 45 minutes out of his picture and probably add 33 per cent to his daily gross.....He could then cut his price to $1.80 and get a bigger daily gross than he now does with six shows at $2.40.....But Sam doesn't compromise.....Not now, nor ever.....and for that, a doff of Phil M.'s chapeau.....

Here's something that RKO thinks everybody should read!

● That's why we are reproducing this editorial from Film Daily of Wednesday, January 8.

RKO RADIO PICTURES

MARCH OF DIMES MOTION PICTURE DRIVE
JANUARY 24th-30th

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 11 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1947 TEN CENTS

U. S. to Push Cross-License Ban in Appeal

To Seek an Injunction From Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Department of Justice will pursue its attempt to obtain a ban on the cross-licensing of affiliated theatres by the so-called "Big Five" defendants when it goes before the U. S. Supreme Court with its contemplated appeal from the New York decree, a Justice Department spokesman said today.

The Department's arguments for a cross-licensing ban were ignored by the New York Federal statutory court in the industry anti-trust suit decree handed down on Dec. 31. At the hearings on the court's opinion

(*Continued on page* 11)

Decree Called New Industry Charter

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The final judgment rendered by the New York District Court in the anti-trust suit was called a "new charter for the film industry" by A. J. Brylawski, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Washington, today in a

(*Continued on page* 11)

House Leader Hits Benton Film Policy

Washington, Jan. 15.—High Government officials, such as Assistant Secretary of State William Benton, should refrain from efforts to dictate policies to private industry, Speaker of the House Joseph W. Martin said.

Martin asserted that American motion pictures, recently criticized by Benton, are among the best media of information and culture in the world today and praised the "excellent and constructive" job being done by the film industry. "We are going to eliminate Government propaganda agencies as rapidly as possible," he added.

See Upsurging Industries Back of Film Stock Lag

Although film stocks have sustained some of the largest losses in the recent downward fluctuation on the New York Stock Exchange, home office financial experts view the situation without any sign of alarm, generally scouting the theory that the final consent decree in the industry anti-trust suit is largely responsible. Instead, several of them hold that the high earnings reported by motion picture companies during the past year are, strangely enough, the key to the falling film security prices.

This apparent paradox, the experts explain, is brought about by the fact that numerous other industries represented on the New York Stock Exchange reported losses during 1946, with the result that the average investor reasons that these businesses are bound to improve, in response to the postwar demand for goods of all

(*Continued on page* 11)

Churchmen Object To 'Duel in Sun'

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15.—Evidences of Catholic and Protestant concern over David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" developed here today.

Catholic priests in the Los Angeles archdiocese will read the following directive from Archbishop John J. Cantwell from their pulpits at all masses next Sunday: "The Most Reverend Archbishop desires the priests of the archdiocese to warn the Catholic people that pending classification by the Legion of Decency, they may not, with a free conscience, attend the motion picture 'Duel in the Sun.'

(*Continued on page* 11)

NY Regents Hearing On 'Outlaw' Today

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 15.—Convoked in an extraordinary session, the 12-member New York State Board of Regents will hold a hearing here this afternoon on New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding's appeal in the efforts of city officials to get "The Outlaw" barred from exhibition throughout the state. The appeal was filed after the motion picture (censorship) division of the state Education Department rejected Fielding's arguments for revocation of the

(*Continued on page* 11)

See 2 Years Before Admission Tax Cut

Washington, Jan. 15.—Republican leaders in Congress today expressed the belief that it may be two years before the budget and national debt will permit the reduction of admission and other wartime excise taxes.

Representative Harold Knutson, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said that the wartime excise increase "will definitely have to remain at the wartime rate for another year," as disclosed yesterday.

MPA Has New Int'l Division

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—An international information center will be established at the Hollywood office of the Motion Picture Association by Addison Durland, who returned to work with Production Code Administrator Joseph I. Breen this week, after two years with the International Information and Cultural Affairs office of the Department of State.

Conferences between Breen and Gerald M. Mayer, managing director of the international division of the Motion Picture Association, has resulted in Durland's appointment.

Breen points out that during the entire war period not a single protest against any Hollywood picture was registered by any Latin-American country. Some indication of the international analysis that made this record possible may be had from the

(*Continued on page* 13)

Einfeld Coming East To Sign M-G-M Pact

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—Charles Einfeld, president of Enterprise Productions, will leave here by train tomorrow night for New York, where he is expected to sign final papers covering M-G-M's distribution of the company's product abroad. Details of the deal, which was reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Nov. 11, are now being worked out here in discussions between Einfeld, Arthur

(*Continued on page* 13)

Must Produce Records on Flat Rentals

Federal Court Rules in Cases on Percentages

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 15.—U. S. District Judge McVicar has ordered 19 of the 24 exhibitor plaintiffs in the suit brought by them against eight distributing companies, each to produce for inspection by distributors' attorneys, all of their daily records of admissions to exhibitions of flat-rental pictures.

Some of the exhibitors were also directed to submit bank books, bank statements and copies of income tax and admission tax returns for certain years.

The action, known as Roth et al. v. Paramount et al., was brought by the exhibitors, operating some 41 theatres in the Pittsburgh area in 1944,

(*Continued on page* 11)

Program Is Set for Carolina Meeting

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 15.—Principal speakers at the 35th annual convention of the Theater Owners of North and South Carolina, to be held on Jan. 26-28, at the Hotel Charlotte will be Robert T. Barton, Jr., attorney of Richmond, and E. V. Richards, Jr., of New Orleans. Barton will discuss the recent New York court decree affecting the industry and Richards will speak on the Motion Picture Foundation.

A directors' meeting will be held

(*Continued on page* 11)

Virginia Statesmen To MPTA Banquet

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Virginia's governor and Congressional representatives, industry leaders and others have been invited to attend the dinner-dance which will climax the Virginia Motion Picture Theatres Association's mid-winter convention, which will be held here at the Shoreham Hotel on Feb. 1-3.

Meanwhile, various local and field committees for the convention have been meeting regularly, and the support of the Variety Club, the Film

(*Continued on page* 11)

Personal Mention

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, president of Loew's, is in Hollywood from New York.

•

SAM S. KESTENBAUM, manager of the De Luxe Theatre, Bronx, is celebrating his 24th year in the motion picture business. He started with the old Fox Film Corp. back in 1923.

•

CECIL B. DEMILLE, Paramount producer, will be in New York on Feb. 18.

•

ENRIQUE BAEZ, United Artists general manager in Brazil, arrived here yesterday for home office conferences.

•

CLIFF ALMY, Warner supervisor for the Philippines and Japan, has arrived in New York for home office conferences. He was accompanied by MRS. ALMY. The plan to leave here over the weekend en route to Manila.

•

ROY D. DISNEY, president of Walt Disney Productions, is here from the Coast with MRS. DISNEY.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, managing director of J. Arthur Rank's Independent Producers, Ltd., will arrive here tomorrow aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* with his wife.

•

VIVECA LINDFORS, Warner player, leaves the Coast Saturday by plane for New York; on the following Thursday she will fly to Stockholm.

•

HERBERT LAZARUS of the Paramount home office legal staff has been elected vice-president of the Paramount Pictures Club, to succeed SIMON B. SIEGEL, resigned because of illness.

•

MALCOLM KINGSBERG, RKO Theatres president, has arrived in Hollywood from New York, and will return here early in February.

•

JOSEPH H. HAZEN, president of Hal Wallis Productions, will leave New York tomorrow for the Coast where he will remain two weeks.

•

MURRAY SILVERSTONE, president of 20th-Fox International, will sail from New York for Europe on the *Queen Elizabeth* on her return trip.

•

SAM SIRITZKY of Siritzky International, will leave New York today for Paris. He will return in a few weeks accompanied by French producer MARCEL PAGNOL.

•

PHIL KOURY, Paramount publicist working on Cecil B. DeMille productions, will arrive here tomorrow from Hollywood.

'Elizabeth' Delayed

The *S. S. Queen Elizabeth*, which has among its 2,272 passengers several motion picture executives, has been delayed at sea because of weather conditions and is expected to dock in New York early tomorrow

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

DOWN-TREND of a number of film securities in trading on the New York stock exchanges earlier this week is precipitating comment and its share of mystery. There are not many who profess to understand why, aware as they are that some Wall Street circles ascribe the cause to shrinking grosses.

It is rather clearly indicated by now that extended runs are no longer as extended as once prevailed during the hectic, boom days of the war. But national circuit operators generally are in accord that business continues to fit in with the industry's pet expression, which is to say "terrific," even if a given attraction may not hold up for the length of first-run to which everyone has beecome accustomed.

■

What goes on today is this: Grosses, overall, are maintaining their heavy draw. The difference simply is attractions are not sustaining themselves as thoroughly in many key runs, which makes it required for distributors to turn to subsequents for the dollar differential. However, there is no discernible concern over the formidability of receipts of important attractions in key houses if you will reconcile yourself to the shortened span of playing time these attractions are able to eke out these days. Picture "A" may no longer get six weeks. It may only get four, but the grosses rolled up in those four are compasing notably with the money accumulated in comparable periods. Week by week, the dough is there. Only generally there is no longer the same number of weeks per picture per first run.

■

In private conversation with the operating executive of one of the national circuits yesterday, he said his circuit is running ahead of last year in all situations with the solitary exception of one city which hit unprecedented peaks during the war. Its military establishments have been watered down now, watering down theatre business, to no one's surprise.

Reactions in the securities market perhaps may be the more accurately traced to uncertainties and misapprehensions over theatre divorcement. One high direction offers Wall Street's nervousness over how the major companies will emerge as an explanation. All doubts cannot be discounted, of course, but our informant has a way of divining the future.

■

"Where we have a minority interest in two theatres in a situation where we must divest under the decree—and always provided the decree of the District Court is the document under which we shall have to function finally—we anticipate matters will adjust themselves.

"If we own 50 per cent in one of two houses, we split the present net on a 50-50 basis with our partner, of course. If we can succeed in buying up that outside half interest, we are in a position then to retain 100 per cent of the net after operations. Therefore, if we can assume full ownership of only one house where we now only have a half, we figure we have more than a reasonable chance of being as well off as we are today with a 50 per cent interest in the two theatres. Duplicate this sort of yardstick around the country for a quick size-up of how we believe we can meet the mandate of the final, final decree without undue suffering on our part."

This line of reasoning, obviously, is predicated on the assumption that partners will sell to their major circuit partner and, of prime importance, that the court will approve proposals such as these when the defendant company submits them.

■ ■

Two columns ago we drew a tentative conclusion which now eliminates itself on further investigation. Drawing upon the decree analysis by Herman M. Levy, MPTOA general counsel, who was analyzing as an individual, the assumption was distributors might be empowered to couple sales of regular features with Westerns, reissues and imports as well as shorts and newsreels. The June 11 decision has ruled this out in specific language. The December 31 decree was interpreted as permitting loopholes through lack of specific language.

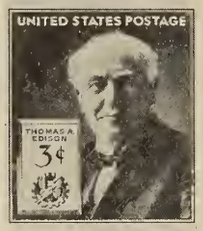
Not so, however. Westerns, reissues and imports cannot be tied to licenses for other features because the findings of fact and the conclusions of law incorporate among definitions of terms exactly what is meant by "one or more features." A feature, the court found, is "Any motion picture, regardless of the picture, the length of the film of which is in excess of 4,000 feet."

Which seems to rivet this one down very neatly.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

THE United States Postal Department will place on sale on Feb. 11 a special postage stamp commemorating the 100th birthday of Thomas A. Edison, who, among a few other miscellaneous items, invented the Kinetoscope, forerunner of motion picture projection. The stamp will be issued from the Post Office at Edison's birthplace, in Milan, Ohio. Issuance of the stamp stems from a suggestion made by RKO Radio's Leon (Ol' Stamp Collector) Bamberger, who also suggested the issuance of the United Nations stamp, in 1943, and the stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of motion pictures, in 1944.



RKO's Ned Depinet will send a souvenir first-day cover with the Edison stamp to each of his company's exhibitor customers.

▽

Radio "disc-jockey" Fred Robbins calls a record a "Lacquer Cracker," a "Brisc Disc" and a "Fetching Etching."

▽

When Steve Broidy's Monogram studios in Hollywood found it practically impossible to obtain a large number of Indians who owned authentic war dress for "Black Gold," now shooting, the script was revised. Now the redskins show up at an exclusive dinner party—in evening clothes!

▽

Thirsty thieves who broke into the Symphony Liquor Store on Broadway, here, the other morning, made off with $500 worth of refreshments. Next door is the Thalia Theatre; current attraction: "The Lost Weekend."

▽

Staff-writer Jeanne Contini of the *Daily American* of Rome, Italy, touring the Riviera, visited the little fishing town of Camogli, piled helter-skelter aganst the steep shore, where she attended the local cinema. Olivia de Havilland was trying to marry herself to a pilot on the screen when she went in, and for about 10 minutes she watched the picture, when, suddenly, "Basta!" shouted a voice from the rear. The picture stopped, the house lights came up, and the public filed out, to a man. Miss Contini looked blankly at her local guide for an explanation.

"Oh, that was the manager," he answered. He frequently gets fed up with a picture and decides everybody's had enough."

▽

Lew Lehr describes a political battle as a battle in which everyone shoots from the lip.

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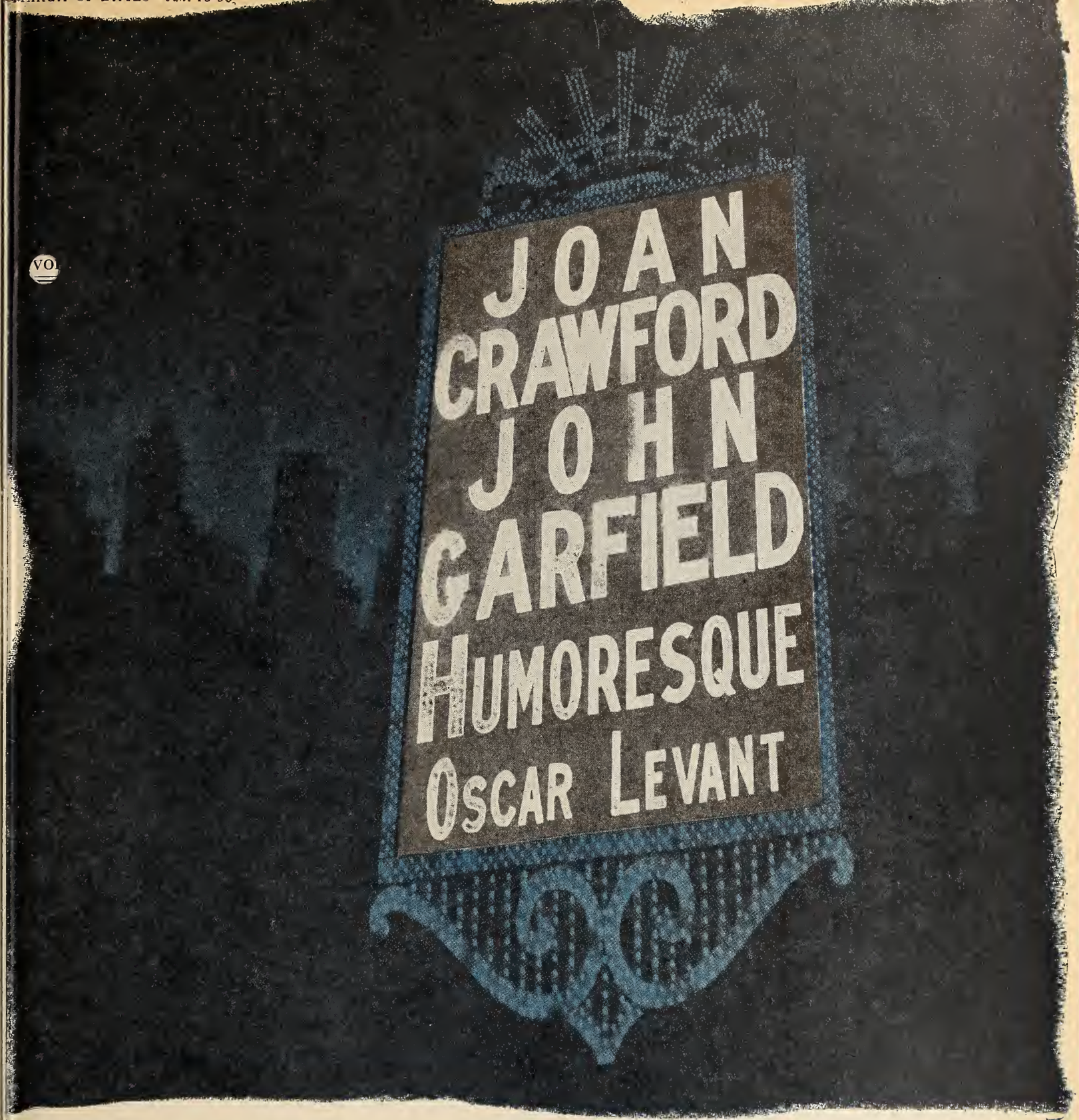


HIGH LIGHT OF THE NEW WARNER YEAR!

The successor to 'Mildred Pierce' is out-grossing 'Mildred Pierce' everywhere!

WARNER PICTURE--WARNER POWER!!

JOAN CRAWFORD • JOHN GARFIELD in **HUMORESQUE** with **OSCAR LEVANT • J. CARROL NAISH**

Directed by **JEAN NEGULESCO** • Screen Play by Clifford Odets and Zachary Gold • Based on a Story By Fannie Hurst • Music Conducted by Franz Waxman • Produced by **JERRY WALD**

Tax on Amusements Chicago Proposal

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—The bill to tax the amusement industry in Chicago, which had previously been shelved by Mayor Kelly, was brought to life here again today when the city council's finance committee passed an order directing corporation counsel Barnet Hodes to prepare an ordinance to tax amusements.

Reason given for the necessity of taxing amusements was increased city government operation expenditures, especially the cost of paying 200 firemen added to fire department today.

Under the proposals, all admissions under 30 cents would not be taxed. The previous tax measure, shelved by Mayor Kelly, was one per cent on tickets from 30 to 50 cents: two per cent on tickets from 50 cents to $1, and three per cent on admissions over $1.

Alderman George D. Kells, one of Mayor Kelly's council leaders, said he would oppose tax if passed on to public. He asked: "Would you call a movie tax a luxury tax when it taxes poor people?"

Paramount Wins 'Odd Jobs' Picture Case

Suit of Walter Futter against Paramount, alleging that the short-subject series, "Unusual Occupations," plagiarized an idea submitted by him, has been dismissed in New York Supreme Court.

Attorney Louis Nizer, representing Paramount at the 10-day trial, contended that there was no property in an idea as common as the photographing of odd jobs and pointed out that other companies had made films dealing with such subjects before Futter submitted a sample reel to the late Lou Diamond of Paramount. The court ruled that "literary property does not exist in an idea, but only in a particular means of expression thereof."

Screen Directors to Convene Saturday

Annual convention of the Screen Directors Guild of New York will be held Saturday at the Lotos Club here, with a business meeting in the afternoon and a dinner in the evening.

Speakers will include: George Stevens, president of the Hollywood Directors Guild; John Shaw, vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co.; Floyd Brooker, director of visual education of the U. S. Office of Education, and Paul Alley, director of films for NBC Television.

Mich. Owners to Meet Today on the Decree

DETROIT, Jan. 15.—The effects of the decree handed down in the New York equity suit will be weighed here tomorrow by the Independent Theatre Owners of Michigan at a special meeting to be held in the Statler Hotel. Last Friday, Sam Carver, the organization's president, voiced dissatisfaction with the decree, holding that "we would have been better off if the Government had never started the proceedings."

Six Additional Films Rated by the Legion

The National Legion of Decency has placed the following films in Class A-I: "The Magic Bow," GFD-Universal; "Schrammeln" (German) Ein Wein; "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," 20th-Fox, and "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," Monogram.

Paramount's "California," and RKO Radio's "The Locket" were classified A-II.

Furst's District Wins Mono. Race

Monogram's Northeastern district has been awarded the $1,000 first prize in the company's "March of Progress" sales drive, which was held between last Oct. 12 and Dec. 28, the company disclosed here yesterday. Nat Furst supervises the district, which includes Boston, New Haven, New York, Buffalo and Albany.

The Midwest district, under Sol Francis, consisting of Des Moines, Minenapolis, Oklahoma City, Omaha and Dallas, ran second with a $750 award, and the Central district, headed by Ben Eisenberg, took third prize, $500. Eisenberg's territory included Milwaukee, St. Louis, Detroit, Indianapolis and Chicago. Other districts finished in the following order: Eastern district, under Bill Onie, fourth; Southwestern district, Lon Fidler, fifth; Southern district, Arthur Bromberg, sixth, and the Western district, Mel Hulling, seventh.

Para. Club Launches Series of Meetings

The Paramount Pictures Club will tonight launch the first of a series of "get-togethers" for the company's home-office male personnel. Highlight of the evening will be an address by Burton B. Turkus, former Brooklyn assistant district attorney, who will be introduced by Paramount vice-president Austin C. Keough, honorary chairman of the club's arrangements committee. Company secretary Robert O'Brien will be master-of-ceremonies.

The series was initiated by Agnes Mengel Grew, club president.

Gross for 'Razor' at Roxy Near Million

Grossing a fraction less than $1,000,000 in its eight-week run, which closed Tuesday at the Roxy Theatre, here, 20th Century-Fox's "The Razor's Edge" broke the weekly house record three times during the engagement, according to A. J. Balaban, the Roxy's managing director.

The film grossed $164,701 in its first week, topping the record held since 1929 by "The Cockeyed World," and then went on to amass $165,265 in the second week and $175,634 in the sixth, Balaban said.

Pete Rouman Returns

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 15.—Pete Rouman, who operated the State at Rhinelander, Wis., for a number of years and retired from the field more than 15 years ago, has returned to exhibition with the purchase of a substantial interest in the Hodag Amusement Co., which has purchased the State and Majestic, Rhinelander, from M. and M. Enterprises. A partner in the new firm is John B. Schuyler, general manager of the 13 theatres operated in upper Michigan by Delta Theatres.

Paramount Leaders Slate Coast Parley

Paramount home office executives and foreign department heads will meet with studio vice-president Henry Ginsberg and other company Coast officials in Hollywood shortly for a conference on production. In this connection, board chairman Adolph Zukor will leave New York for the Coast on Jan. 24. President Barney Balaban will leave here for Miami today with Mrs. Balaban, and on Jan. 26 he will proceed to Hollywood.

Next week Paramount International president George Weltner and managing director for Great Britain J. E. Perkins will leave here for the conference.

Others in New York who are expected to be on hand for the Hollywood meeting are Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of domestic distribution, and Curtis Mitchell, national director of advertising-publicity.

Marshall Grant Co. To Film 3 Annually

CHICAGO, Jan. 15. — Two former Universal producers and a Chicago lawyer have incorporated in California as Marshall Grant Productions for $2,000,000 and today announced plans of producing three pictures annually with each budgeted between $800,000 and $2,000,000. One of the first two films will be "The Loop," with a Chicago background. Advertising and publicity is being handled by Ruthrauff & Ryan.

Principals of Marshall Grant Productions are William D. Saltiel, Chicago lawyer, who has been secretary and general counsel for the Chicago Opera Association the past 15 years, chairman of the board; Marshall Grant, former Universal producer, president, and Charles Haas, also a former Universal producer, vice-president. Saltiel said negotiations are under way with three major distributors.

SOPEG Certified at MGM International

The Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109, has been certified by the National Labor Relations Board as collective bargaining agent for "white collar" workers of M-G-M International here.

Negotiation of a contract with the M-G-M unit will begin shortly, according to a union spokesman. Sidney Young, president of the union, heads the union committee, which includes Natalie Rich, Paula Warner, Hanna Tansman, Constance Hillman and Doris Cory, all of whom are employed at M-G-M International.

Miss de Havilland, 'Killers' Get Votes

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 15. — Film critics on the four San Francisco newspapers have voted these the best pictures of the year; "The Killers," "Leave Her to Heaven," "Diary of a Chambermaid," "The Jolson Story," "Canyon Passage," "Notorious", "Courage of Lassie," "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers," and "Margie."

Two of the critics cited "Sister Kenny." Olivia de Havilland was their choice for the Academy Award.

Altec Conference Starts in Detroit

DETROIT, Jan. 15.—Altec's annual conference opened here today at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, with Detroit manager F. C. Dickely serving as host.

Today's session dealt with the company's overall operations and included discussions of plans for continuing improvement in exhibitor service, contemplation of new developments in motion picture sound reproduction.

The meeting will continue through Friday.

20th Will Preview 'Pilgrim' Tonight

BOSTON, Jan. 15.—At a special preview of 20th Century-Fox's Technicolor musical, "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," to be held here tomorrow night a jury of prominent Back Bay socialites and Beacon Hill Junior Leaguers will pass on the picture's lampooning of Boston. As a part of the preview Dick Haymes will be heard from Hollywood on his Coast-to-Coast broadcast over CBS in a salue to Boston, and the program will be "piped" into the Somerset Hotel, where the screening will be held.

Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox director of advertising-publicity, Rodney Bush, exploitation manager and Sid Blumenstock, assistant exploitation manager, will be here for the screening. Edward Callahan, 20th-Fox district manager, and James M. Connolly, branch manager, will be hosts at the screening. Schlaifer plans to remain in Boston through Friday for advertising conferences with New England exhibitors.

M. S. Katz, Pioneer Independent, 72

ATLANTA, Jan. 15.—Marcus S. Katz, founder of Kay Film Exchanges, died suddenly at his home here last evening. Katz was 72 years old, and is survived by three sons, Ike, David and Harry, all active in the business started by their father.

The Kay offices in Washington, Atlanta, Charlotte, Memphis and New Orleans remained closed all day today in respect to the memory of the founder, who was a pioneer in independent distribution in the Southeastern States.

Burial will be at Montgomery, Ala.

Stanley Kane Gets North Central Post

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 15.—Stanley Kane, trial lawyer with the Labor Relations Board, and executive secretary of the old Northwest Allied during 1935-37, has been named executive director of North Central Allied. He will take office on Monday. Kane succeeds Don Swartz, who resigned Jan. 1 and assumes additional executive duties.

The NCA board has set its annual convention in Minneapolis for April 21-22.

NSS Personnel Shifts

CLEVELAND, Jan. 15.—Irving Marcus succeeds Milton Lindner as National Screen Service salesman here. Lindner has been transferred to the Washington office where he succeeds Howard Savitt, now an exhibitor.

"Oh, the sun keeps rollin' to the west

'Cause it's home in California;

And the waves don't rest until

They roll through the Golden Gate!

Oh, that redwood tree up in the clouds

Gets its roots in the golden state—

Sure the master hand went

to town on

"CALIFORNIA"

Adapted from the Music Score of "California," Copyright 1946, Famous Music Corp.

HERE IS SURPASSING GREATNESS!

CALIFOR

Starring

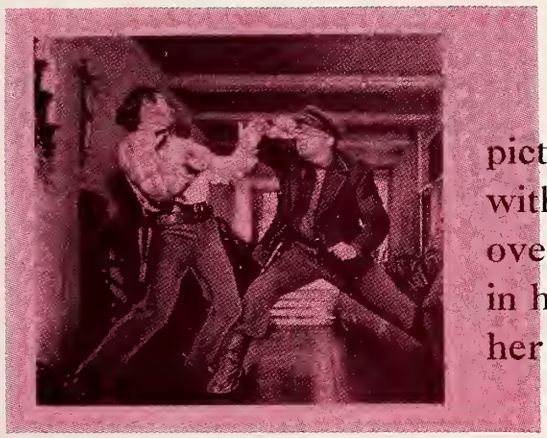
RAY MILLAND
BARBARA STANWYCK
BARRY FITZGERALD

with

GEORGE COULOURIS
ALBERT DEKKER
ANTHONY QUINN
FRANK FAYLEN

Yes, it took a master hand to make an outdoor action picture so brilliant, *so unusual* as "California." But Paramount has done just that in this first epic rendering of the whole big, brawling story behind the birth of America's most glamorous state!

"California" is a *new kind* of western drama, a spectacular canvas of frontier days employing a basically different production conception and adding an imaginatively fresh music technique to Technicolor and a cast of 5,500 in twenty-seven panoramic settings.



"California" out-statures the biggest pictures of its type that you ever played. Robust with slashing action yet warm with poetic overtones—explosive with adventure yet rich in human values—it is the saga of America turning her dreams westward to a fabulous destiny.

Because it is the ultimately-great picture of the West that you knew some day would be made, Paramount is giving it the kind of campaign accorded only to the very great. Under this page is a sample of the sensational ads which will shout to 60,000,000 ticket-buyers:

"CALIFORNIA

Here It Comes!"

HERE IS SURPASSING GREATNESS!

CALIFORNIA

in Technicolor

Starring

RAY MILLAND
BARBARA STANWYCK
BARRY FITZGERALD

with

GEORGE COULOURIS
ALBERT DEKKER
ANTHONY QUINN
FRANK FAYLEN

Your eyes, your ears, your heart never had a greater thrill...

A JOHN FARROW Production
Directed by John Farrow
Screen Play by Frank Butler and Theodore Strauss
A Paramount Picture

FULL-COLOR 2-PAGE SPREADS LIKE THIS

THE RACE TO PHARAOH CITY FOR GOLD!

★

THE GAUDY BOOM TOWN GOVERNED BY SMOKING GUNS!

★

THE LUXURY BALL IN HONOR OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST NOTORIOUS WOMAN!

★

THE CORRUPT DICTATORSHIP THAT RULED A RAW, RICH COUNTRY!

★

THE FURY-CHARGED BATTLE OF THE HACIENDA, CITADEL OF TYRANNY!

★

THREE HEADLINE STARS—TWO OF THEM ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS!

★

TWENTY-SEVEN PANORAMIC SETTINGS SURROUNDING A CAST OF THOUSANDS!

★

THE GLORY OF SUNKISSED TECHNICOLOR IN AMERICA'S MOST GLORIOUS LOCALE!

★

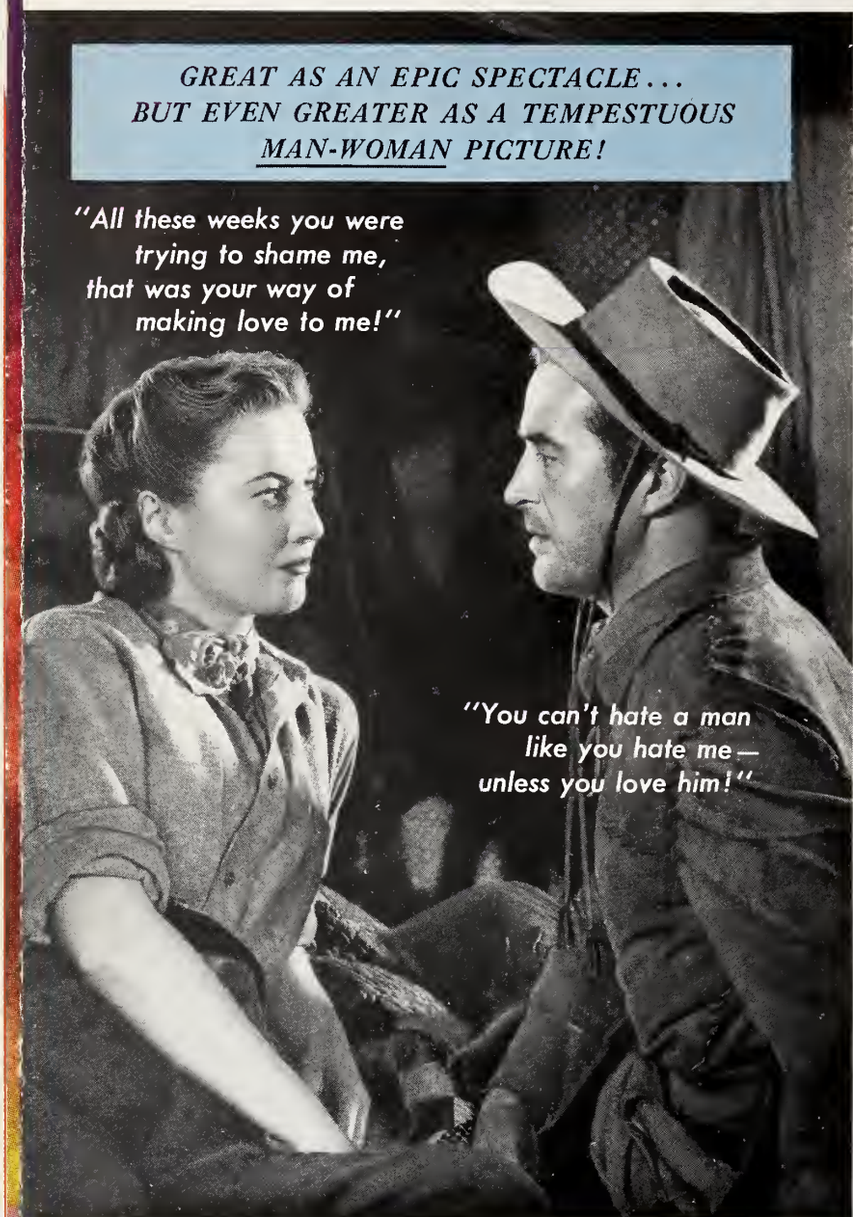
THE STIRRING LIFT OF AN ENTIRELY NEW TREATMENT OF 6 SONG NUMBERS!

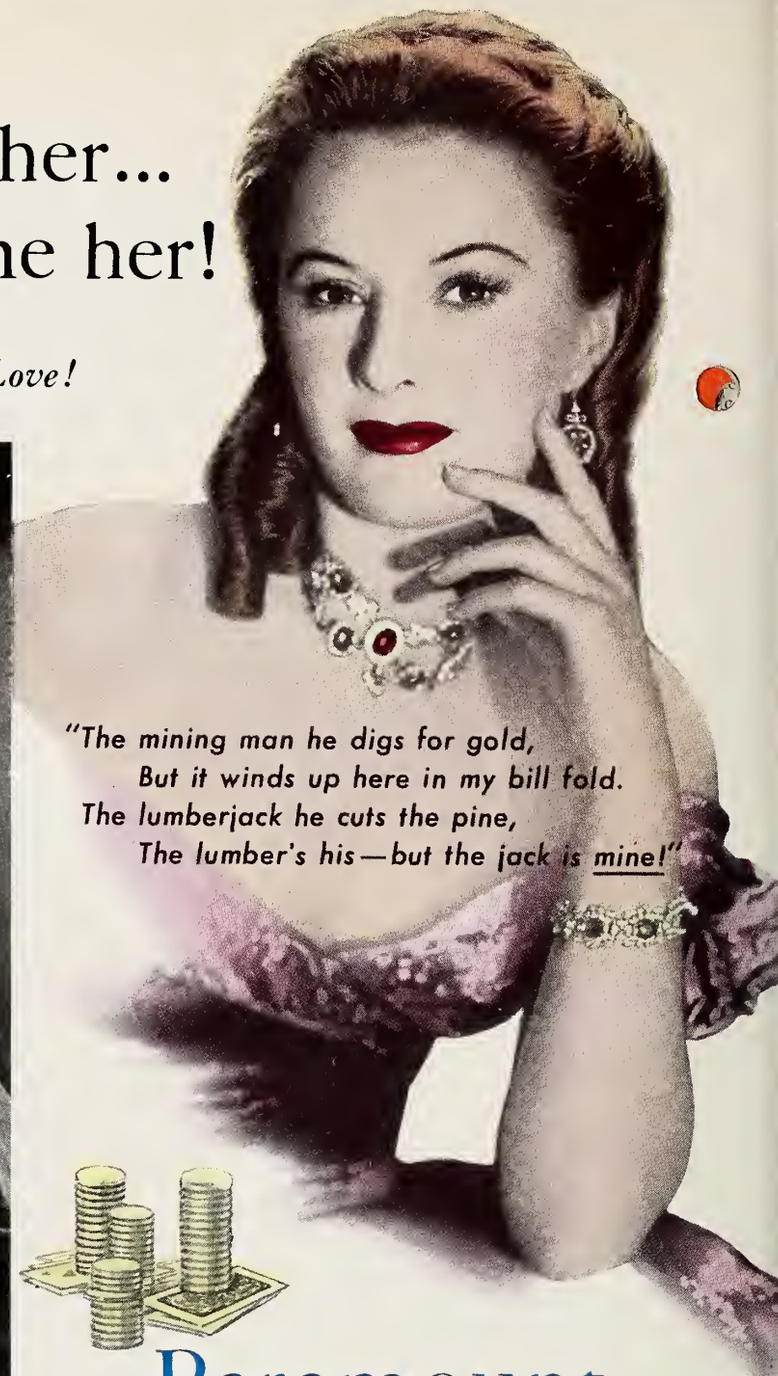
★

PRODUCTION AND DIRECTION OF JOHN FARROW, WHOSE "TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST" IS THE BOXOFFICE SENSATION OF THE HOUR!

No Town would have her...
No Man could tame her!

This Glamorous Gambler Who Won
Men's Money And Scorned Their Love!





Paramount

confidently predicts that the tremendous grosses of "Two Years Before the Mast" and "Blue Skies" will be matched —or exceeded—by

CALIFORNIA

In Technicolor

JUST OPENED
SENSATIONALLY AT N. Y. RIVOLI

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Must Open Records

(Continued from page 1)

for an injunction to restrain the distributors from demanding audits of theatre records of their returns on percentage pictures, from threatening the exhibitors with suits for damages on such returns, and from proceeding with such suits as were already filed, involving theatres operated by two of the plaintiffs.

The distributors, in their defenses, claimed that the plaintiffs went into court with unclean hands, having allegedly defrauded distributors on percentage returns. Over 140 counterclaims were interposed by the distributors against the various plaintiffs for damages.

Records Ordered Opened

On April 2, 1945, Judge McVicar handed down an order, on motion of the distributors, directing the exhibitors to open for inspection their theatre records on box-office receipts derived on some 7,700 percentage pictures exhibited between 1937 and the end of 1943. The order called for the production, among other records, of daily box-office statements, cash books, day books, journals, ledgers, bank deposit slips, bank books, records of ticket purchases, inventories and controls, booking books and copies of income tax and admission tax returns. An appeal taken by the exhibitors from Judge McVicar's order was dismissed by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in June of that year.

In a recent supplemental motion, argued here on Dec. 31, the distributors claimed that in the course of the inspection 19 exhibitor plaintiffs refused to permit inspection and copying of entries purporting to be the box-office receipts derived on flat-rental playdates; also that inasmuch as percentage receipts could have been diverted in the books to appear as if derived from flat rentals, the distributors were entitled under the order to inspect the records for flat-rental playdates. Distributors also claimed that certain of the plaintiffs had not produced for inspection certain income tax and admission tax returns directed in the former order, as well as copies of bank books and bank statements.

Affidavits Filed

In support of the supplemental motion, the distributors filed affidavits by the auditor and special counsel engaged in making the inspection under Judge McVicar's first order, in which it was stated that over $750,000 in straight under-reporting of percentage receipts, had already been verified by the inspection to the extent that it was permitted, and alleged over 20 different methods of manipulating tickets, admissions and theatre records identified in this inspection alone by which percentage receipts could have been diverted or concealed.

Judge McVicar took the supplemental motion under advisement and his order just handed down calls upon the exhibitors also to open up all flat-rental records for inspection.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and
Disc Recording Facilities

Cross-Licensing

(Continued from page 1)

last October in New York, Robert L. Wright, Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, admitted under questioning that one result of a cross-licensing ban could be a gradual forced divestiture of affiliated theatres by their owners, presumably for lack of sufficient top-quality product with which to operate them.

The court, which in its opinion had held that theatre divorcement was not in the public interest and was too drastic a remedy for it to order, commented at the October hearings that the cross-licensing ban was an attempt to achieve divorcement by indirection.

The Department spokesman said today that when the Government appeals to the Supreme Court from the refusal of the New York court to order theatre divorcement, it will also ask for an injunction against cross-licensing of affiliated theatres during whatever period may be allowed by the high court for defendant companies to divest themselves of their theatres, should such divestiture be ordered.

Department attorneys also contend that competitive bidding for pictures, as ordered in the New York decree, also should be enforced during any divestiture period in order to assure competitive disposition of runs among independent exhibitors, and it would ask the high court for such an order as well. This would indicate that the Department is prepared to oppose the petition of company defendants for a stay of the competitive bidding order until 90 days after the Supreme Court has disposed of appeals from the New York decree. The latter petition by the companies is tentatively set for hearing on Jan. 22 before the New York court.

CIEA to Support Cross-Licensing Ban

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—A permanent ban on the cross-licensing of affiliated theatres will be urged by the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations in a brief to be submitted to the U. S. Supreme Court if the industry anti-trust case comes up for appeal.

Also, the brief, which will be submitted as "friend of the court" by CIEA, will argue against the system of competitive bidding fostered by the lower court. The brief will be prepared by Abram F. Myers, it is said. Before the petition is drafted, the CIEA is expected to hold another meeting to discuss the final New York court judgment.

Decree Called

(Continued from page 1)

talk on the decision before the Motion Picture Committee of the District, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Regarding the impact of the final decree if the Supreme Court upholds the New York judgment, Brylawski asserted that industry people "can only dimly see how it would work out."

Brylawski traced the history of the trust suit, and explained the recent Neely-Langer divorcement bill to the committee. In his analysis he explained the practices ordered by the courts.

Churchmen Object

(Continued from page 1)

This motion picture, of which the Legion of Decency was not afforded an advance viewing, appears to be morally offensive and spiritually depressing."

In an unusual procedure, Archbishop Cantwell's instructions to priests will be transmitted through publication Friday in "The Tidings," official Catholic publication, which will also carry a summary of objections to the film.

Similar action by Protestant churches today appeared possible as the Los Angeles Federation of Protestant Churches awaited response by Selznick to a letter of suggestions for changes in "Duel," understood to include elimination of the character played by Walter Huston which, the letter contended, uses the figure of a ministerial type as the film's single comedy content.

A Federation executive today told MOTION PICTURE DAILY a decision on the future course would be made when the church council meets Thursday night, and it would depend on the nature of whatever assurances Selznick may have made by that time, in case the council considers the assurances inadequate. The Federation executive said the council's next step would be to advise Protestant ministers of its views regarding the picture and suggest they inform their congregations.

Selznick Comments On Church's "Duel" Protest

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—When notified of the Catholic church action, Selznick said tonight:

"I am particularly surprised at the Archbishop's statement in view of the fact that at all times we worked closely with the Production Code Administration. All suggestions made by the PCA were followed to the letter. The result was that we received the PCA seal of approval without question."

Selznick explained that the reason the Legion of Decency did not have a chance to see the picture in advance was due to the Technicolor strike, which made it impossible to have a finished print available until the day before the Los Angeles premiere. He added that he would be happy to meet with the Archbishop's representatives at any time for a full discussion.

'Outlaw' Hearing

(Continued from page 1)

license on the Howard Hughes production because of allegedly "obscene and immoral" advertising.

Included in the city contingent which will leave tomorrow morning for the state capitol are Fielding, Charles Preusse and Daniel Rosen, both of the city corporation counsel's staff, and Stanley Rosen, aide to the license commissioner. Executives and attorneys for United Artists, distributors of the film, and Hughes Tool Co., owners of the film, also have indicated their intention to participate in the hearing.

Braunschweiger Named

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15. — Walter Braunschweiger has been elected executive vice-president of the Bank of America, board chairman A. J. Gock announces. Braunschweiger, with the bank 24 years, is vice-president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Film Stocks

(Continued from page 1)

sorts, while film stocks may possibly be thought to have passed their peak, for the time being at least.

Backing up this view, according to W. Stewart McDonald, Warner assistant treasurer, is the observation that recent transfers of funds from film stocks to those of other companies have apparently been made largely by scattered small investors outside the industry, while executives within the industry are retaining their holdings and increasing them.

Such executives, McDonald suggests, are in a better position than the outsiders to judge possible films earnings, along with the expected yield from film stocks, during the coming five years or so. They believe, he points out, that no depression will strike the motion picture business within this period and that any recession will be slight and short-lived. Moreover, the film companies have largely liquidated the debts they piled up during the 1930's and are now proceeding with caution, thus placing them in a good position to face any ups-and-downs of the business cycle, McDonald adds.

His views, in general, are seconded by Robert H. O'Brien, Paramount corporate secretary, who says there has been "no change in the internal operation of the company which would account for the stock slump," so far as Paramount is concerned.

Carolina Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday night. The convention, which is expected to attract more than 500, will open on Monday at 1:30 P.M. Paramount will be host at a party on Monday night, and a closed exhibitors meeting will be held Tuesday afternoon, with the annual banquet held Tuesday night with Harry E. Buchanan of Hendersonville, N. C., and Claude Lee of Paramount in New York, as toastmasters.

Convention sessions will be presided over by Ben Strozier of Rock Hill, president of the organization.

Virginia Statesmen

(Continued from page 1)

Salesman's Club of Washington and other organizations has been rallied behind the event.

Sam Roth is convention general chairman, and Wade Pearson is co-chairman. Others serving as chairmen of various committees include: Charles Grimes, A. Julian Brylawski, Carter T. Barron, Brock Whitlock, Frank M. Boucher, Senator Ben Pitts and Tom Baldridge. Morris Fraben and John Broumas are acting as special assistants to Roth.

Rename Doob, Cohen

Oscar A. Doob of Loew's, and Max A. Cohen of Cinema Circuit, have been re-elected directors of the Broadway Association, here. Robert K. Christenberry, Hotel Astor president, has been re-named president.

WANTED
Competent stenographer with motion picture distribution background and experience to handle correspondence, filing, and general office routine work in impartant film exporter effice in New York. Salary commensurate with ability with chance for advancement. Pleasant personality plus loyalty essential. Write for appeintment and stipulate qualifications, if presently employed, and give references.
BOX 388
MOTION PICTURE DAILY
1270 Sixth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y.

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"Duel in the Sun" was top grosser in a week which found holdovers at nearly all first-run theatres here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15:

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $8,900)

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,500)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,000)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $14,000)

THE VERDICT (WB)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $7,700)

THE VERDICT (WB) — FOR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $7,600)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $12,700)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $23,700)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $11,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $26,200)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $24,600)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $10,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,000. Average: $6,100)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,200. (Average: $15,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,100. (Average: $6,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,800)

THE VERDICT (WB) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $16,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $23,100)

BLUE SKIES (Para.) and THE LAST CROOKED MILE (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $24,100)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,400)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $9,300)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,100)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $8,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) — WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $21,600)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,100)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $15,700)

CHICAGO

On increased admission prices, the Essaness Woods continues to make local box-office history with "The Best Years of Our Lives." The Loop's other top grosser is "The Razor's Edge." Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15-16:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 3rd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $12,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) 3rd week. On stage: Burl Ives and Lorraine Rognan. Gross: $55,000. (Average: $60,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) — GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $13,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) —GRAND (1,150) (55c-65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) On stage: Milt Herth Trio. Gross: $60,000. (Average: $45,000)

TEMPTATION (U) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c) Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000)

A YANK IN LONDON (20th-Fox) and WANTED FOR MURDER (20th-Fox) — RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) Gross: $12,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE, THE GIRL (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c) Gross: $26,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $50,000. Average: $29,000)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) — UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.40) 4th week. Gross: $51,000. (Average: $20,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business has dropped from the high of the first week of the new year, but continues at generally satisfactory levels. Mild weather has been helpful. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 14-15:

THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—CIRCLE (2,800) (48c-74c) 7 days. With Freddie Slack band on stage. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $21,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,800)

TEMPTATION (U)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $14,400)

SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $6,700)

PHILADELPHIA

The personal appearance of the King Cole Trio, with "The Falcon's Adventure" on the screen, is packing them in at the Earle. Business at other houses continues generally good. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 14-16:

THE WICKED LADY (U)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,250)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $22,800)

THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days. With vaudeville starring the King Cole Trio. Gross: $44,500. (Average: $22,800)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $28,000)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $29,500. (Average: $26,000)

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,800)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week, 2nd run. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,500)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $28,300)

HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500.

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $24,900)

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio) — STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,200)

SAN FRANCISCO

A record cold spell here has been reflected in plunging box-office returns. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 17:

SWELL GUY (U)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $14,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $31,500. (Average: $32,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week, with vaudeville. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $32,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LARCENY IN HER HEART (PRC)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $23,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000.

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—STATE (1,459) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $13,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LARCENY IN HER HEART (PRC)—TIVOLI (1,616) (55c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $27,000)

BOSTON

Business continued fair to good in spite of a prolonged cold wave and two holdovers. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15:

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10). Stage show: Duke Ellington and orchestra. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $27,500)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox) and PERSONALITY KID (Col.)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,900)

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LITTLE MISS BIG (U)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $26,100. (Average: $25,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $23,500)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox) and PERSONALITY KID (Col.)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,100)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,900)

ST. LOUIS

The weather remained good, and "Till the Clouds Roll By" paced the city at Loew's State. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16:

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.) and HOME IN OKLAHOMA (Rep.) —FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $20,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,000)

CAPTAIN CAUTION (Favorite Films) and CAPTAIN FURY (Favorite Films)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c) 3rd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $12,500)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,000)

THREE LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE (20th-Fox) and BLACK ANGEL (U)—SHUBERT (1,900) (40c-50c-60c). Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,500)

KANSAS CITY

All theatres are doing better than average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 14-16:

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,750)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) —ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000)

LANDRUSH (Col.) and LONE STAR MOONLIGHT (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Major Bowes' All-Star Graduates on stage. Gross: $11,000. Average: $9,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

"The Razor's Edge" and "The Jolson Story," in third weeks, are adding to the records they have already established. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $7,600)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $13,500)

MR. HEX (Mono.) and THE MYSTERIOUS MR. VALENTINE (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) with vaudeville. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,900. (Average: $3,600)

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,800)

CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and LITTLE IODINE (UA)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)

(*Continued on page* 13)

Outlets Needed by Austrian Industry

By HUBERTUS ZU LOEWENSTEIN

VIENNA, Jan. 10 (By airmail).—The film problems of Austria are clearly demonstrated by the difficulties facing its post-war motion picture industry. The inner market of the country, divided into four zones of occupation, is too weak to support a worthwhile VOLduction volume. Of course Germany would be the natural outlet for Austrian films, but since the end of the war, the German-Austrian frontier has remained hermetically sealed.

Before the war, many Austrian pictures found their way into Czech and Hungarian theatres, where they were very popular. Also, the. 3,500,000 Sudeten Germans living in Bohemia and the large German minorities in Hungary provided important additional chances for Austrian pictures. However, these German-speaking people have now been transferred to Germany and strong governmental pressure is preventing German-language pictures from reaching Czech and Hungarian audiences.

Dubs or Duals

Thus, in order to reopen those Danubian markets, the Austrian industry will be forced either to dub in foreign languages or to shoot parallel versions in non-German tongues. Also, it is hoped in Vienna that new markets may be found, perhaps in Latin America, or in the Soviet Union.

The first post-war Austrian picture has been released in Vienna. It is "The Way Is Long," dealing with the return home of prisoners from British, American and Russian prisoner-of-war camps. It was produced by Donau Film, which is now shooting a musical, "Viennese Melodies." Additionally, there are three other producing companies in Austria. Production has been helped along by the Soviet film director, Lev Boriovitch Lunin, who controls the large Rosenhuegel studios. With his assistance, Austrian producers have been able to purchase raw stock from Russia.

Chinese Fact Film

First Chinese factual film to be shown here "The Bridge of Yinhsi," portraying conditions in post-war China, will be tradesshown here today at Universal's projection room.

Key City Grosses

(*Continued from page* 12)

CLEVELAND

"The Dark Mirror" was the outstanding attraction in a week dominated by holdovers. The weather has been unseasonably balmy. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15-16:

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) — LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $23,800)
A SCANDAL IN PARIS (UA) — LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,000)
HENRY V (UA) — LOWER MALL (700) ($1.25-$2.50) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000.
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $12,000)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) —RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. Average: $21,400)
THE DARK MIRROR (International) — WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $22,600)
THE TIME, THE PLACE, THE GIRL (WB)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,850. (Average: $3,650)

DENVER

"Undercurrent," combined with "Great Day" is the gross leader here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15:

MARGIE (20th-Fox) and DECOY (Mono.) —ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week, day and date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $15,000)
RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500)
UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) and GREAT DAY (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,500)
WHITE TIE AND TAILS (U) and DEAD OF NIGHT (U)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at the Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000)

Trim Scripts, Costs Will Drop: Wald

Cut scripts—not film—if the problem of ever-increasing production costs is to be solved, Warner producer Jerry Wald recommends.

It is not infrequent, Wald said, that as much as $300,000 worth of a film's production time and effort winds up on the cutting room floors of Hollywood. Scissor the scripts before cameras start and production costs will drop, he maintains.

Wald believes uninspired, run-of-the-mine pictures are rooted in uninspired, run-of-the-mine script writers. He urges script writers to "invest in their own time," as playwrights do. Mechanical writing under studio direction, he holds, tends to bring about stilted, ordinary pictures.

Wald said he has contracted to produce Charles Jackson's "Fall of Valor."

Jack Warner, the company's vice-president, Wald disclosed, is bent on bringing about the development of still more talent—producers, directors and writers—within the studio.

Wald maintains that some independent producers who operate apart from major studios are forced to adhere to the stereotyped, thereby contributing nothing toward "advancement" of the screen. The big companies, he said, can afford to take chances and, as a result, each year open new film horizons.

On British production, Wald opined: "Britain has not produced one picture that gives us a better understanding of British problems." Pictures should be "ambasadors," Wald said, and the British, he believes, have failed in this regard. There have been "no best years of English lives," Wald maintained, referring to Samuel Goldwyn's new picture. Pictures should reflect the times, said Wald. "Social significance" should not be stuffed down the throats of the public—filmgoers should be given a chance to form their own conclusions, he maintains. Therein, he says, lies true artistry in film-making.

MPA Int'l Division

(*Continued from page* 1)

1945 statistics which show that 134 scripts were read that involved Latin-American scenes, characters or incidents. During that year Durland participated in 192 story conferences on 252 pictures dealing with Latin-America.

Establishment of this new international information center is part of MPA president Eric Johnston's program to enhance the standing abroad of pictures produced in the United States, and to service producers with global information collected by Gerald Mayer's international division of the MPA.

Durland, a specialist on Latin-America, will now, as a result of his two years on other world problems in the State Department, extend his Hollywood production advice to Europe and to the Orient.

Einfeld Coming

(*Continued from page* 1)

Loew, president of Loew's International, and Nicholas M. Schenck, M-G-M president.

Plans for domestic distribution of Enterprise product already have been formalized, according to an announcement made by Gradwell L. Sears, UA vice-president in charge of sales, last Dec. 18.

Navy Claims 3-Dimension

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Navy hopes to have a three-dimensional photographic process ready next summer which works without the use of a viewing aid. The new process is called "trivision." The Navy Department is a licensee of the inventor, Douglas F. Winnek of Mount Vernon, N. Y.

High Rentals Held A Peril to Coast

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 15.—"The making of pictures as now practiced in Hollywood must either be reformed or Hollywood will cease to be the production center of the industry," Trueman T. Rembusch, Indiana exhibitor, has written in reply to a letter he received from Harry H. Thomas, president of Producers Releasing. The latter had pointed out the necessity of higher film rentals due to increased production costs.

Rembusch said the East poses a threat to Hollywood. "Eastern production of pictures is one way out of the Hollywood waste-pots," he declared, adding: "I do not cry depression but I do say be prepared for business to return to its normal level. That means that film rentals must also return to normal levels."

Monogram Weighs 16mm. for Export

Monogram is exploring the possibilities of using 16mm. film for a portion of its foreign distribution, it is announced by president Steve Broidy, since he feels that the near future will bring an expansion in its use. Preliminary investigation of the situation is now under way by Norton V. Richey, president of Monogram International, subsidiary handling the foreign market.

Condemn Theatres

COLUMBUS, GA., Jan. 15.—George D. Affleck, city building inspector, has listed the Springer and Rialto theatres, here, owned by Georgia Theatres Inc., as unfit for use after a fire hazard inspection resulting from the recent Winecoff hotel blaze in Atlanta. Two other houses the Royal and the Dixie (colored), were criticized for unsafe conditions.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Dec. 21	ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT Michael Duane The Fighting Frontiersman D—61 min. (863) (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Dec. Releases) LADY IN THE LAKE Robt. Motgomery Audrey Totter D—105 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46) SECRET HEART Claudette Colbert Walter Pidgeon D—97 mins. (Rev. 11/29/46)	SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI Elyse Knox Phil Regan M—75 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)			(Dec. 15 Release) FABULOUS SUZANNE Barbara Britton Rudy Valee D—71 mins. (604)	GENIUS AT WORK Wally Brown Alan Carney C—61 mins. (Rev. 8/1/46)	DANGEROUS MILLIONS Kent Taylor Dona Drake D—69 min. (648) (Rev. 12/2/46)		(Dec. Release) TEMPTATION Merle Oberon George Brent D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/16/46))	
Dec. 28	SINGIN' IN THE CORN Judy Canova C—64 min. (Rev. 11/25/46)		SONG OF THE SIERRAS Jimmy Wakely 'Lasses' White O—681	BLUE SKIES Bing Crosby Fred Astaire M—107 min. (Rev. 9/26/46)		(Dec. 23 Releases) STAGECOACH TO DENVER Allan Lane Bobby Blake THAT	CHILD OF DIVORCE Sharyn Moffett Regis Toomey D—62 mins. (Rev. 10/21/46)	(Jan. Releases) THE RAZOR'S EDGE Tyrone Power Gene Tierney Anne Baxter Clifton Webb D—146 min. (647) (Rev. 11/20/46)	(Crosby) ABIE'S IRISH ROSE Michael Chekhov Joanna Dru D—96 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)		THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (Color) M—105 min. (610) (Rev. 12/10/46)
Jan. 4	(Dec. Release) RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO Louis Hayward Barbara Britton (Rev. 11/27/46)	THE SHOW-OFF Red Skelton Marilyn Maxwell C—83 mins. (708) (Rev. 8/13/46)	GINGER Frank Albertson Barbara Reed			BRENNAN GIRL James Dunn Mona Freeman D—95 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	CRIMINAL COURT Tom Conway Martha O'Driscoll D—63 mins. (Rev. 8/9/46)	THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM Betty Grable Dick Haymes M—85 mins. (Rev. 12/31/46)		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46)	
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)	(Jan. Releases) 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (Color) Robert Walker Van Heflin M—135 mins. 710	RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL Gilbert Roland O—61	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands	THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas	DEADLIER THAN THE MALE Claire Trevor Lawrence Tierney	13 RUE MADELEINE James Cagney Annabella D—95 mins. (Rev. 12/17/46)		I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou	THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)	GALLANT BESS (Color) Marshall Thompson George Tobias D—99 mins. 702	RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins.		WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean		(Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)	(Reissue) STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE Spencer Tracy D		THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	THE MIGHTY McGURK Wallace Beery D—85 mins. 711	VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser N—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)		TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67		(Reissue) LES MISERABLES Fredric March Charles Laughton			HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette	LADY IN THE LAKE Robert Montgomery D—103 mins. 712				CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66		(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65	(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy	
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins.		RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakeley O—54	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John		SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117		(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D	SMASH-UP—THE STORY OF A WOMAN Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.		VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean	ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich D	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62				
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min.	RETURN OF RIN-TIN-TIN (Color) UNTAMED FURY Mikel Conrad	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D				NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—11 mins.
Mar. 1			THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		PHILO VANCE RETURNS Alan Curtis D THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont D	VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins. THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86				

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Da*

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 12 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1947 TEN CENTS

Hits 20-1 US Balance in UK Film Exchange

Cripps Outlines Aim for 'Fair Field in America'

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Charging that the volume of U. S. films shown at present in England is yielding a cash return which, at any engagement, is at least 10 or 20 times the amount earned by British pictures in America, Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, called for a greater measure of "reciprocity" while addressing J. Arthur Rank's executives at a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel here tonight. The current "lopsided" ratio exists despite the fact that America has four times

(*Continued on page 6*)

Warns Exhibitors On Film Production

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Exhibitor participation in production is "unlawful," Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board of Allied States, said here today.

Myers contended that "the buyer should never become the seller." He said that integration of that kind was responsible for the industry anti-trust suit. He said Allied has no plans to enter production, but will simply guarantee the exhibition of a block of 12 pictures to be produced by an independent producer.

"In the first place, exhibitors do not have the 'know-how' to engage in

(*Continued on page 6*)

U. S. Still "Master" In Films—Goldwyn

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Back from England, Samuel Goldwyn told a press conference his observations abroad convinced him "we are still the master," adding, "all I care about is that American production maintains its leadership."

He said Britain's quota law would "inspire bad pictures" in Britain by forcing producers to make too many and went on to point out that all American production companies are cutting down on number and going in for quality instead of quantity. "The quota

(*Continued on page 6*)

Wirthwein to Coast For Para.; Others Advanced by Reagan

Harold Wirthwein has been advanced from Milwaukee branch manager for Paramount to assistant West Coast district manager under Hugh Braly in a number of sales personnel advancements announced here yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution.

Harold Wirthwein

This is a newly - created position, made necessary by the expansion of Braly's territory to include Los Angeles, San

(*Continued on page 6*)

Bill Introduced to Keep Excise Tax

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—A bill to continue wartime excise taxes indefinitely, including the 20 per cent film admission tax, was introduced in the House today by Representative Grant, a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Intended, at least in part, to make

(*Continued on page 6*)

ATA, CSA Move to Safeguard Appeals

Thurman Arnold, counsel for the American Theatres Association, and John J. Jackson, Sr., representing the Confederacy of Southern Associations, will appear before the statutory court here in the industry anti-trust suit next Wednesday to ask the judges to give their denials of the ATA and CSA intervention petitions the status of a formal order, according to word received here yesterday from Washington by defense attorneys in the case.

Such an order was sought by Arnold some time ago as a basis for appealing the intervention denial to the Supreme Court. The denial at present stands simply as a hand-written notation on the original briefs filed by the exhibitor groups.

War Gave US Films Realism—Capra

If the war has served Hollywood in any positive way, it is in the provocation of a healthy trend toward realism, a realism which in some respects might redound to the financial as well as creative benefit of American films, Frank Capra, Academy Award producer-director, observed yesterday. Capra arrived here yesterday from

(*Continued on page 6*)

Deadline for Appeals of Suit Delayed

Have 60 Days or More After Jan. 22 Hearing

With the New York Federal District Court issuing a formal order yesterday for a hearing next Wednesday morning on defense motions for modification of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, the deadline for appealing the case to the U. S. Supreme Court automatically was extended from March 1 until at least March 22 and possibly longer.

Delay in the time allowed for appealing, which a spokesman for the defense counsel pointed out is automatically 60 days

(*Continued on page 6*)

Michigan Exhibitors Criticize Decree

DETROIT, Jan. 16.—Michigan Independent Theatre Owners discussed four major issues at its Statler Hotel meeting here today.

Sam Carver, president, announced that the New York consent decree was unanimously criticised as being harmful to arbitration for independent exhibitors. A buying organization was proposed for members' protection, and a fight was planned against a state tax on seats and receipts.

Delegates heard an initial report on its committee's visit with Ed Stuckey, Paramount branch manager, and it disclosed no satisfaction in its effort to secure lower film rentals.

Independents Not Bound by Decree *(But They Can't Violate Trust Laws)*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Independent producers and distributors, not parties to the industry anti-trust suit, are not bound by the New York court decree, Robert L. Wright, Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, said here today.

However, Wright added, they are not free to engage in practices which the court has found to be in violation of the Federal anti-trust laws, and if they were to do so they would be subject to law suits and the decree in the present industry case could be employed as a precedent against them.

The independents' immunity from the new law of the industry derives from their abstention from practices

(*Continued on page 6*)

Loewenstein Calls For US Tax Action

Oklahoma City, Jan. 16.—M. Loewenstein, president of the Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, wrote to members today urging them to protest to their Congressmen against the proposed extension of the 20 per cent war-time excise tax. Loewenstein is also wiring Herman Levy, MPTOA counsel in New Haven, asking that he urge the MPTOA to organize a nationwide protest against continuation of the tax.

Arbitration Should Stay, Says ITOA

The New York Independent Theatre Owners Association yesterday went on record for the continuance of arbitration in the film industry, Harry Brandt, ITOA president, declaring that, "Without arbitration, we will lose ourselves in a maze of trips to the court house and no responsible group in the industry will be able to keep up with the litigation that will inevitably ensue as a result of the final decree. It will be a lawyers' 'paradise.'

"The Independent Theatre Owners

(*Continued on page 6*)

'Dimes' Refusal Said Without Precedent

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16. — Following rejection Wednesday night by Infantile Paralysis Foundation head Basil O'Connor of a $30,000 donation tendered by Hollywood's Permanent Charities Committee, PCC Vice-President Edward Arnold today issued a statement reading in part: "We regret sincerely that the gift of $30,000 by PCC to the 1947 'March of Dimes' for hospital and medical care of stricken children has been refused because of the Foundation's policy against participating in 'joint fund-raising campaigns.'

"This action is unprecedented. We know of no other example in the history of American charities in which a contribution by a reputable donor has been rejected by a reputable charity organization. Our contribution is twice last year's $15,000, which was the amount requested by the state chairman of the Foundation."

"In 1943 members of the picture industry gave approximately $20,000; in 1944 they donated $33,000; the following year, first in which PCC actively took over the drive, they contributed $81,000. Our campaign is not joint fund-raising campaign. This single annual industry-wide solicitation plan has been proved the most efficient means yet devised for raising charity funds in our industry.

"Notwithstanding the fact O'Connor and other officials of the Foundation have rejected the contribution offered, it will be held in reserve in hope that those in authority who are raising funds for needy and helpless persons will decide to accept this gift."

O'Connor's rejection was based on the Foundation policy requiring personal solicitation by its own campaign staff. He reported he will take a similar stand in connection with the Red Cross drive, which he also heads. O'Connor left last night for New York.

'Dimes' Air Show to Start Film Drive

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—As part of the national program opening the motion picture industry's collection week for the March of Dimes, a special show will be presented over Mutual's network, originating here, Jan. 23 at 10:30 P.M., EST., with Olivia de Havilland, Jose Iturbi, Andy Russell, Dinah Shore and Red Skelton participating. Ken Carpenter will act as master of ceremonies.

Two Broadway theatres, the Astor and Victoria, will make audience collections for the March of Dimes. One house, Keith's in Baltimore, will collect "dimes" for two weeks beginning today.

Six more theatre circuits have indicated that they will participate in the "Dimes" drive through audience solicitations during the week of Jan. 24-30. They are: Chakers, Springfield, O.; Eskin, Milwaukee; Dickinson, Mission, Kan.; Everett, Charlotte; Smalley's, Cooperstown, N. Y., and the Graphic, Boston.

Personal Mention

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association president, is due to arrive here from the Coast on Wednesday. His travelling agenda includes a Chicago stopover.

•

O. B. HANSON, vice-president of National Broadcasting, has been appointed to the board of the New York chapter of the Army Signal Association.

•

V. SHANTARAM, India producer, and his Indian screen star wife, JAYASHREE, will leave New York for Bombay on the *Queen Elizabeth* over the weekend.

•

W. HARLEY RUDKIN, film critic of the Springfield, Mass., *Daily News*, and MRS. RUDKIN, are parents of a baby girl.

•

GARRETT VAN WAGNER, RKO comptroller, is at home nursing a sprained ankle. He expects to return to his office here on Monday.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern Exchanges, Atlanta, has returned there from St. Louis.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will leave here Sunday for St. Louis.

HERMAN ROBBINS, president of National Screen Service, is due to return to New York from Miami.

•

LEO F. SAMUELS, assistant to WILLIAM B. LEVY, Walt Disney Productions international sales supervisor, left New York yesterday for England on the *S. S. America*. Accompanying him was BERRY GREENBERG, special Far East sales representative, whose ultimate destination is Singapore.

•

THOMAS D. GOLDBERG, president of the Hilton Theatre Co., Baltimore, and MRS. GOLDBERG, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary with a 10-day trip to Bermuda.

•

HUNT STROMBERG, JR., producer-son of the producer, will wed MARILYN K. ELWELL at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Sunday.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity at M-G-M, flew to Hollywood from New York yesterday.

•

JERRY WALD, Warner producer, was in New Haven yesterday. He will return to New York today.

•

MICHAEL REDGRAVE, British actor, is en route to Hollywood from New York.

Mrs. Truman and Daughter Honored by D. C. Showmen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Mrs. Harry Truman, the First Lady, and her daughter Margaret, today met theatremen of Washington who had been assembled by John Russell Young, president of the D. C. Board of Commissioners. to pay tribute to them for the great work done on behalf of the "March of Dimes" in the past years and to acquaint them with plans for the 1947 campaign.

Exhibitors of the District, who were the first group in the country to indicate whole-hearted cooperation in this year's drive, were addressed by Commissioner Young, who said that Washington led the nation last year in raising the largest per capita percentage of funds by the work done by the theatremen.

Attending the meeting in the Willard Hotel were more than 85 of the city's showmen.

Carter T. Barron, Loew's division manager, who is co-chairman of the theatre group with John J. Payette, Warner general zone manager, expressed appreciation to the showmen for unanimously endorsing the 1947 campaign and volunteering to make audience collections in the city's 60 theatres.

The executive committee includes Charles Stofberg, director of organization; Frank La Falce, campaign director, Julian Brylawski, Fred Kogod, Harry Freeman and Sidney Lust, regional chairman, and Glen Norris, exchange chairman.

Censorship Threat Arises in Colorado

Denver, Jan. 16.—A bill to create a board of censorship and also requiring all theatres to supply immediate seating accommodations for all patrons paying admission has been introduced in the Colorado state legislature. The bill would require all films to be screened and approved before being shown publicly.

The effect of the seating portion of the bill would be to forbid a theatre operator to sell tickets of admission after seats have been occupied.

New York film legislative experts believe there is a very slim chance of the Colorado bill becoming law.

Altec Development Discussed at Meet

DETROIT, Jan. 16.—Altec Service Corp.'s conference concluded its second day of meetings today at which engineering matters and future developments were on the program.

Closer cooperation between the various Altec companies and theatre supply dealers in the further promotion of Altec equipment was also discussed, together with additional publicity and sales helps for dealers.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
With 13 BIG STARS
in Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S SONG OF THE SOUTH IN TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN 'The JOLSON STORY' In TECHNICOLOR Larry PARKS Evelyn KEYES
IN PERSON THELMA CARPENTER LEONARD SUES WALTON & D'RDURKE DEAN MARTIN & JERRY LEWIS

Loretta Young · David Niven in HAL WALLIS production "The Perfect Marriage" A Paramount Picture
in Person THE MILLS BROS. OLGA SAN JUAN TIM HERBERT ELLIOT LAWRENCE And His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIME SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"Tender...brimming with human warmth" —WALTER WINCHELL
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 50th St. Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

"MURDER IN REVERSE"
(A Four Continents Release)
"Ingenious . . . Stirring . . . Superb Performances."
Alton Cook, N. Y. World Telegram
RIALTO THEATER
42nd Street and Broadway

JAMES CAGNEY in
'13 RUE MADELEINE'
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus on Stage—GRACIE FIELDS
Extra! ARTHUR BLAKE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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FACT!

THE NEW SENSATION OF THE INDUSTRY IS

"13 RUE MADELEINE"

WHICH MADE BOXOFFICE HISTORY AT THE ROXY OPENING DAY BY BLASTING THE RECORD GROSSES OF "THE HOUSE ON 92nd STREET" SKY-HIGH!

IT'S A FACT!

No Company Has Such Sensational Boxoffice Hits Now Playing And On The Way As 20th CENTURY-FOX

"THE RAZOR'S EDGE" • "MARGIE" In Technicolor • "THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" In Technicolor
"BOOMERANG!" • "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" • "CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" In Technicolor

MARCH OF DIMES • JANUARY 24th-30th

Ohio Looks for Cut In State Taxation

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 16.—A reduction in the Ohio three per cent retail sales tax, generally construed as including the three per cent excise tax on gross theatre admissions, made a part of the pre-election campaign issue by Gov. Thomas J. Herbert, moves a step nearer to realization, when the Governor, after being administered the oath of office, referred specifically to a contemplated downward revision of the state imposts.

Privately, he told newsmen that, while he could speak only in generalities on the occassion, he will outline his plans in detail when he addresses the legislature on Jan. 20, declaring meanwhile that the present treasury surplus is "not desirable."

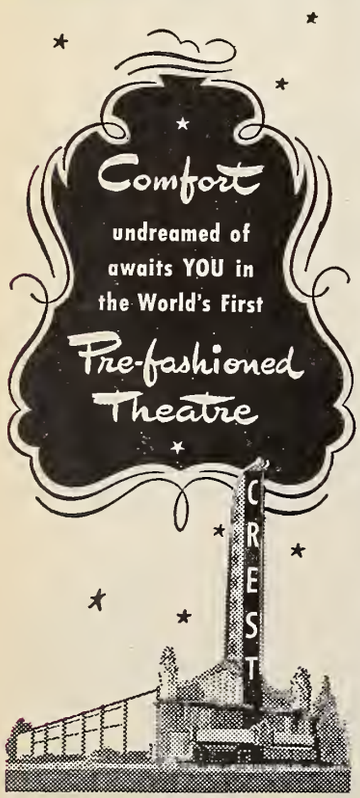
Ohio State Tax Is At All-Time High

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 16.—The three per cent sales-and-use Ohio tax revenue for 1946 skyrocketed to an all-time high of $108,018,676, compared with $75,780,571 in 1945, according to figures released by Don H. Ebright, state treasurer.

Increased patronage and higher admission prices were reflected in collections of the three per cent excise admission tax for the year, which totaled $3,050,842, against $2,484,250 in 1945. Also, a greater number of films were reviewed by the state censor board, as evidenced by collection of $259,111 for censor fees, compared with $218,417 in 1945, the report shows.

Lippert to Be Host

Robert Lippert, president of Screen Guild Productions, visiting here from Hollywood, will meet the trade press today at a reception at the Sherry-Netherlands Hotel.



Mexico City Variety Club Is Inaugurated

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 16.—International Tent No. 1, Mexico Variety Club, was officially established here today with a banquet at Ciro's in honor of President Miguel Aleman of the republic, who was unable to attend because of business pressure, but who was represented by Dr. Hector Perez Martinez, Secretary of the Interior. The affair was attended by high cabinet ministers, numerous diplomats, bankers and businessmen.

Others present included Bob O'Donnell, president of U. S. Variety Clubs; several American film personalities and Luis Montez, prominent Mexican exhibitor and the new tent's chief barker. Max Gomez, RKO Radio manager here, is assistant chief barker. Guests numbered many American exhibitors.

Today's function started a series of fiestas which will be climaxed tomorrow with a housewarming by the tent.

Variety Trip Awards For SGP Salesmen

DALLAS, Jan. 16.—A trip to the National Variety convention at Los Angeles in May will be given to each Screen Guild Productions salesman in Texas who exceeds his quota for the next four months, John L. Franconi, SGP franchise holder here announces.

This week, Screen Guild's John W. Mangham was host to Franconi, and other franchise holders at an Atlanta meeting on company releases.

Sammis Named Film Chairman in Drive

Fred Sammis of *Photoplay* magazine has been named motion pictures committee chairman of the Salvation Army's $1,000,000 fund drive, by Ben Duffy, drive sectional chairman. Other appointments include Frank White, Columbia Broadcasting, and Frank G. Silvernail, Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, as radio chairmen, and Phil Baker as entertainment field assistant.

The SA is seeking the $1,000,000 to offset an anticipated deficit in its $2,600,000 budget for next year for 60 welfare and service institutions in New York's five boroughs.

Nine American Films Banned in Singapore

Singapore film censors have banned in the last 16 months 12 films, most of which are American releases, according to press dispatches received here yesterday. No reasons were given for the bans.

American films involved are: "The Lost Week-End," March of Time's "Report on Greece," "The General Died at Dawn," "The Island of Doomed Men," "Prison Without Bars," "Two Thousand Women," "Last Days of the Gangsters," "White Cargo" and "Objective Burma."

$100,000 for 'Stranger'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Vera Caspary's new novel, "Stranger Than Truth," has been purchased at a price reputed to be $100,000 as the initial story acquisition by the new Triumph Pictures, according to David Siegel, president. Purchase of the story was by competitive bidding against several major studios.

Chicago Arbitration Complaint Settled

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—A complaint on file with the Chicago tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, entered by James Jovan, operator of the Monroe Theatre here, has been settled, with the theatre, which had previously played second "B" week, now slated to play first "B." The McVickers Theatre, which was involved in the suit, shows films in both second and third "A" weeks.

The Monroe, which has also established a new Monday opening policy, has been playing two days after the conclusion of the McVicker run for the past two weeks.

The settlement was negotiated by Arthur Goldberg, for Balaban and Katz; Aaron Stein for Jones, Linick and Schaefer, and Seymour Simon, for the Monroe. Balaban and Katz and Jones, Linick and Schaefer operate the McVickers on a partnership arrangement.

Don Lee Challenged On Licenses Renewal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—The application of Don Lee Broadcasting for renewal of licenses to operate four principal stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and San Diego is under attack by counsel for 41 small-town affiliates. A hearing is being conducted by Federal Communications Commission examiner Rosel Hyde.

Although testimony so far has appeared to favor renewal, the affiliates are expected to charge undue pressure to force local stations to air national programs in preference to local. On conclusion of the hearings, which may continue throughout the week, Hyde will take the testimony to Washington for a final decision.

Full Network for Academy Awards

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—American Broadcasting will broadcast the Academy Awards ceremonies on March 13 on a national hookup, under an arrangement approved by the Academy board, with the program running one hour and a half or longer.

The board has also fixed prices for public admission to the event, made possible this year for the first time, at $3.60 and $4.80, with 3,500 seats going on sale. Jack Benny or Bob Hope will be master-of-ceremonies, which program director Mervyn Leroy said, will include the largest entertainment program ever offered by the Academy.

Silverberg Named Chicago UJA Chief

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Harris Silverberg, head of National Screen Service in Chicago, has been appointed chairman of the amusement division of Chicago's United Jewish Appeal campaign. The amusement division quota has been set at $350,000. At a recent dinner presided over by John Balaban, $228,000 of this amount was raised.

Silverberg says a fund-raising dinner will be held on Feb. 6 at the Standard Club to which representatives of all branches of the amusement industry here will be invited.

Atlantic Coast SMPE Views Sound Device

Description and demonstration of magnetic sound for motion pictures was presented to a meeting of the Atlantic Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, here, last evening. Marvin Camras of the Armour Research Foundation, demonstrated the method, which involves the use of magnetic coating on films instead of the conventional optical system. A film, "Magnetic Sound for Motion Pictures," was screened. The SMPE's Chicago unit will next be addressed by Camras, and in March the Institute of Radio Engineers will also hear from him on magnetic sound.

James Frank, Jr., presided at last night's meeting, the first to be held following his election as successor to Frank E. Cahill, Jr., in the Atlantic Coast chairmanship.

FCC Asks A. T. & T. To Show Video Color

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Federal Communications Commission has asked the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. to be prepared to transmit colored television over its co-axial cable from New York to Washington by Jan. 27.

This is the date on which FCC hearings on Columbia Broadcasting Co.'s color television process will reopen in New York. Technical information on the process, for which CBS is asking that engineering standards be adopted, was presented during hearings here last December. After the testimony was presented, the Commission decided to see how the Columbia color process operates. It set January 27 and 28 for demonstrations in New York.

Seek to Block Ohio Drive-In Theatre

CINCINNATI, Jan. 16. — A mandamus suit has been filed in Common Pleas Court here by Mrs. Mary J. Burchenal, a suburban resident, against Theatre Enterprises, Inc., asking that the theatre's license for a proposed drive-in be revoked on the ground that municipal authorities in the suburban community have never approved legislation permitting sidewalk setbacks. A suit now is pending in the same court, recently filed against the defendants by residents of nearby Glendale, seeking an injunction to restrain the building of the $50,000 project on the grounds that it would constitute a neighborhood nuisance.

'Swell Guy' Benefit

The Mark Hellinger-Universal production, "Swell Guy," will be screened for a special benefit performance for the Damon Runyon Memorial Cancer Fund at the Winter Garden Theatre, New York, on Friday evening, Jan. 24.

WANTED

Competent stenographer with motion picture distribution background and experience to handle correspondence, filing, and general office routine work in important film exporter office in New York. Salary commensurate with ability with chance for advancement. Pleasant personality plus loyalty essential. Write for appointment and stipulate qualifications, if presently employed, and give references.

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Coast Owners Seek Building Changes

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16.—A request that there be no relaxation in the safety regulations now in force in the San Francisco building code, is being made by the California Theatres Association to the board of supervisors.

Particular stress was laid on that section of the code which relates to theatre construction and maintenance. George Nasser, president of the association, will probably cite several proposed amendments to the prevailing code, and urge that the board eliminate some of them.

The present code provides that buildings seating 300 or more are required to be not only of class "A" construction, but in addition are required to comply with certain miscellaneous restrictions, dealing with exits and other matters, all of which are designed for the safety of the public. Under one of the proposed amendments, class "A" construction will not be required except in a theatre building with a seating capacity of 1,000 or more. Local theatre men maintain this will not be a step in subjecting the public to hazards which must be obvious by sanctioning less than class "A" construction in buildings seating more than 300. Nasser is stressing that all reference to making such a change in the seating capacity in relation to class "A" construction in theatre buildings of from 300 to 400 seats be eliminated from mention in the proposed code.

M-G-M Slates Three For Feb.; 7 to Date

MGM will release three features in February, one of which will be a reprint, the second for the company under its new releasing plan, it was announced today.

Heading the list will be "Love Laughs at Andy Hardy"; the second will be "My Brother Talks to Horses," with "Butch" Jenkins, Peter Lawford and Beverly Tyler. The reprint will be "Boomtown." All of the pictures have been tradeshown in all areas. With these three the total set for release so far this year is seven.

Iowa Gets New Bill Taxing Theatres

DES MOINES, Jan. 16. — A bill to permit cities and towns to place an additional tax on theatre admission tickets has been introduced in the Iowa legislature. A second bill, to rewrite the present fire laws as they apply to both old and new theatres is also expected to be introduced at an early date.

The municipal tax bill will be opposed by the combined efforts of the entire Iowa film business, headed by the state Allied exhibitor unit.

'Five Fingers' Dates

First out-of-town openings of Warners' "The Beast With Five Fingers" will be at the Palace Theatre, Jamestown, N. Y., Jan 19; Palace, Columbus, Feb. 3, and State, Waterbury; Palace, South Norwalk; Garde, New London; Palace, Norwich; Palace, Danbury; Warner, Torrington, and Capitol, Willimantic, Conn., Feb. 9.

Daylight Time Vote Assured in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 16.—Petitions calling for the repeal of daylight savings time, containing 24,310 names, were presented today to the board of election commissioners here by Fred Wehrenberg and James H. Arthur, of Fanchon and Marco. This was 5,310 more names than necessary to insure that the question of daylight savings time would be placed on the ballot in the spring election. Wehrenberg says most of signatures were obtained in 80 theatres, with several hundred coming from unions.

E-K Launches New Industrial Sales

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 16.—A new industrial sales program, designed to bring wider distribution of photographic products among the increased numbers of industrial and scientific users of photography, has been launched by Eastman Kodak, the company has announced.

Spearheading the program will be the company's newly-established sales division, Industrial Photographic Sales, which will focus its attention on the promotion of new-type technical photography among industrial firms.

The new division had its inception during the war when the company's technicians worked with scientists and industry in making wide use of photographic techniques to break engineering and production bottlenecks.

Other moves planned in connection with the program include addition of industrial photographic specialists to Kodak's regular staff of technical representatives in the field; and organization of a distribution system for industrial photo materials.

Sioux Falls Continues 'Depinet Drive' Lead

RKO Radio's Sioux Falls exchange, S. W. Fitch, manager, takes first place in the current Ned Depinet Drive for the third week. Indianapolis, R. L. Brentlinger, manager, moved into second place with Charlotte and Minneapolis third and fourth, respectively, in the capitol prize class.

RKO Radio's Midwestern district, H. H. Greenblatt, manager, leads the 11 regional districts. Toronto, Jack Bernstein, manager, is first in the Canadian division with Calgary in second place.

Mrs. Schenck on Drive

Mrs. Harold E. Talbott is chairman of the steering committee, Mrs. Nicholas M. Schenck is treasurer, and Harry Brandt is chairman of the entertainment committee for the benefit performance, "Stars Shine Bright for Women in White," to be held at Madison Square Garden on May 20 to aid the New York Infirmary Building Fund Campaign.

Donohoe to Parade

Herbert J. Donohoe, formerly advertising director of the Dell Modern Group, has joined Arthur H. Motley's *Parade*, syndicated Sunday picture magazine, as motion picture advertising specialist, a field in which he has been prominent for many years. He also was advertising manager of *Photoplay Magazine* for six years.

Rules Station Sole Operating Judge

DENVER, Jan. 16. — In a decision handed down by the 10th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, written by Judge Orie L. Phillips, a radio station is the sole judge of how it is to operate. He also placed the interests of radio listeners over contracts with individuals and institutions.

The case had to do with the sale of station KOB, Albuquerque, to private parties by the New Mexico A. and M. College. The regents, in making the sale, reserved the right of the college to an hour of time daily, with times and programs to be designated by it in advance. Nine years after the sale, in June, 1945, the regents demanded a half hour and 15-minute program, to be broadcast in late afternoon and Sunday mornings, but failed to furnish a description or programs.

With this demand the broadcasting company took the matter to the U. S. courts for settlement. The district court held for the radio station, and now the circuit court has upheld the lower tribunal.

Mexican Film Men See 'Boom Year'

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 16.—Assured of at least 10,000,000 feet of rawstock, local film producers anticipate a boom year, with some circles predicting that the 1947 output will total about 130 features. More cautious elements in the industry, however, are inclined to accept 96 as the probable output, a figure announced after a recent survey by the producers' association.

Fla. State Managers Hold District Meet

JACKSONVILLE, Jan. 16. — Florida State Theatres' district managers met in Jacksonville, with the following in attendance; Bob Thomas, West Palm Beach; Robert Daugherty, Tampa; George Hoover, Miami; Bolivar Hyde, St. Petersburg; Jesse Clark, in charge of theatre operations, who made the opening address. The following exchanges were represented also: William Zoellner and Ollie Williamson, M-G-M; Jack Kirby, Warner Brothers; Dave Prince, RKO Radio; Harry Paul, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply.

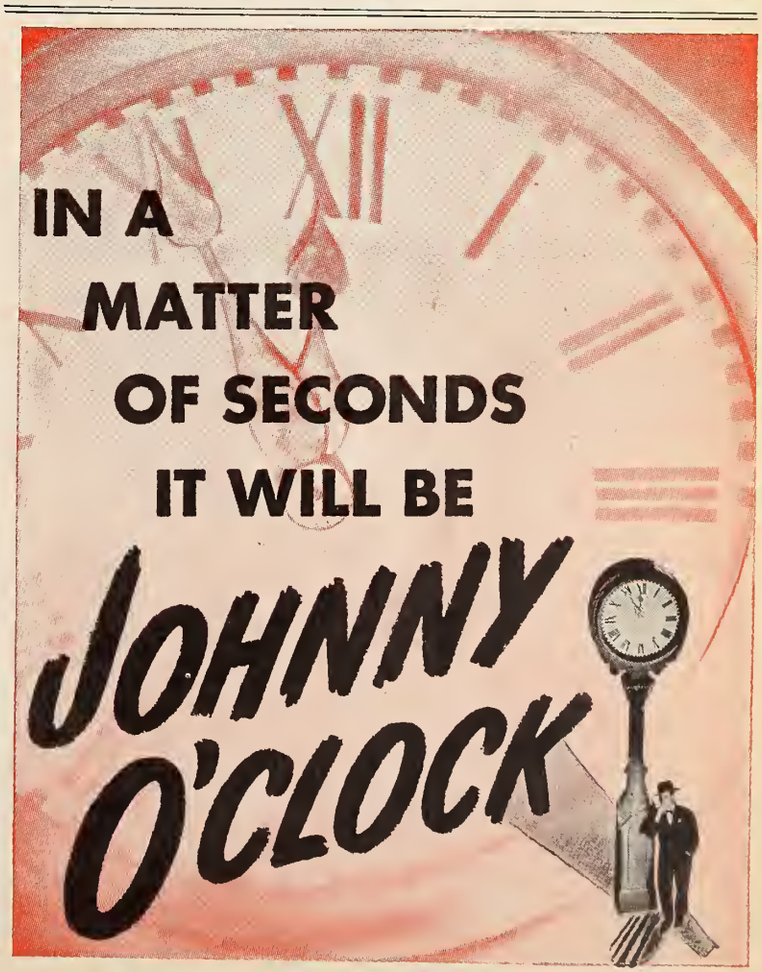
Chicago Variety Sets Jan. 20 Charity Ball

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—The Variety Club of Illinois, Tent No. 26, will hold its first annual ball at the Aragon Ballroom on Monday, Jan. 20 in order to raise funds both for building new quarters in the Continental Hotel and for its chief charity project, the La Rabida Sanitarium.

Plans are being made to bring top talent here from Hollywood and New York to attend the ball, and stars of screen, stage and radio who will be in Chicago at that time, will attend the affair.

Dortic PRC Manager At Albany Exchange

ALBANY, N. Y.—Jan. 16.—Charles Dortic, veteran salesman, has been named Albany manager for PRC to succeed Jack Armm, resigned. Dortic has been with Columbia here two years and was with Warner Bros. in Pittsburgh many years previously. Before that he was with United Artists



War Helped Films

(Continued from page 1)

Hollywood to confer with Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse on scenario problems relating to transportation of their stage vehicle, "State of the Union," to the screen.

Although no stars have yet been selected for the Lindsay-Crouse play, when it is filmed, and no shooting schedule has been made, Capra said that he hopes to have the picture completed by the fall in time for the country's political conventions. RKO Radio will release the picture which is to be produced under his partnership arrangement in Liberty Films.

The four-way partnership, which includes Sam Briskin, William Wyler and George Stevens, calls for one production annually from each of the producer-directors. Two other stories tentatively on Capra's schedule are: "No Other Man," by Alfred Noyes, and "The Friendly Persuasion," by Jessamyn West.

Says Costs Double

Capra, whose initial postwar production, "It's a Wonderful Life," opened its New York run last month, estimated generally that costs have at least doubled in the past six or seven years. He indicated that he was in a sensitive position to judge the rise because his production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" was made before the boom and that he went into service shortly thereafter. Judging from expenditures for the pre-war film, as compared with "It's a Wonderful Life," Capra said, all phases of production, from celluloid and sets to labor and stars, production budgets have risen about 100 per cent. However, rentals and box-office revenue have kept pace with this increase, he added.

With Hollywood devoting considerable energy toward thinning the margin of increase, Capra noted that he had encountered serious discussion about using location shooting as a source of cutting costs. Its principal virtue lies in the savings realized by not having to reconstruct "cities."

Not Always Economy

However, he continued, this does not always lead to economies because in cities like New York, the union problem raised in having to double the number of production and technical workers, or risking the alternative of employing local personnel who are inexperienced, would actually double the costs again.

The problem of fully-trained personnel has probably hindered the development of production in New York, he declared, adding if there were more production here the question of union difficulties would solve itself.

Capra said that he would remain here for about 10 days before returning to the Coast. In addition to an appearance on "Information Please" next Wednesday, along with James Stewart, Capra expects to attend the premiere of his picture at the Town Theatre in Baltimore on Tuesday.

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Deadline

(Continued from page 1)

after the local court's ruling on the latest motions, was seen by industry observers here as diminishing the chances that the high tribunal could hear the case at its present session in Washington. Although the Supreme Court has not yet set an adjournment date, it is regarded as virtually certain to be late in May.

The motions to be argued next week, it was pointed out yesterday, were filed under Rule No. 52-B, which provides that the 60-day period for appealing shall begin with the settlement of the issues thus raised rather than with the entry of the decree on Dec. 31. Attorneys yesterday expected Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright to act on the motions fairly soon after Wednesday's hearing, but action that same day was regarded as unlikely.

The New York office of the Department of Justice was notified yesterday that Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, will attend the hearing and will oppose some or all of the motions made by the defendants. He will be assisted by special U. S. attorney Harold Lasser.

Postponement Asked

The motions of Paramount, Loew's, RKO, Warners and 20th Century-Fox ask postponement of competitive bidding until 90 days after a final judgment is entered upon mandate of the Supreme Court. Also sought by the theatre-owning defendants is an allowance of two years in which to dissolve pooling agreements made by any of themselves with others not a party to the suit, plus permission for a defendant to expand its theatre holdings in order to protect investments or enter a competitive field, with court approval of each such acquisition.

Columbia, Universal and United Artists join the other defendants in asking the competitive bidding extension. Columbia, additionally, wants a similar stay of single selling. UA desires elimination of the provision placing upon distributors the burden of proving the legality of clearances they grant. And Universal seeks modification of the ban on franchise deals.

Excise Tax

(Continued from page 1)

it easier to cut individual income taxes, the measure won priority over all other tax legislation.

It conforms with a recommendation by President Truman and, if passed, will block an automatic rollback of the excise rates on July 1, thus continuing a $1,500,000,000 annual yield to the Treasury.

Prospects of a direct 20 per cent slash in individual income taxes appeared to be fading, although some tax cutting—probably with principal relief for low income groups—is likely.

Chairman Knutson said that the committee may approve the excise continuation bill at its first meeting tomorrow, sending it to the House floor on Monday.

Monogram Foreign Deal

Monogram International has signed a new contract with Tropical Films of Venezuela for 1947 distribution of Monogram product in that country, it is announced by President Norton V. Ritchey.

Wirthwein to Coast

(Continued from page 1)

Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Denver and Salt Lake City.

Jesse T. McBride has been elevated from Omaha branch manager to succeed Wirthwein in Milwaukee; succeeding McBride in Omaha is Don Hicks, formerly salesman there.

Albert C. Benson has been transferred from the Cincinnati branch managership to a similar post in Washington, replacing J. E. Fontaine, resigned. The new Cincinnati branch manager is Walter Weins, who had been a salesman in Dallas. All changes are effective immediately.

In his announcement, Reagan stated: "It is significant that all of the promotions came to men who had been elected to membership in the Paramount sales department's "One Hundred Per Cent Club" at least once and in three instances as many as four times."

Sweigert to Philadelphia To Supervise from Field

Transfer of the headquarters of Paramount's Mideastern division from New York to Philadelphia will become effective on Monday. The action is being taken in accordance with the company's new experiment of conducting the operations of two of its four sales divisions, the Mideastern and the Western, from the field in a move to maintain a closer contact with Paramount accounts.

From Philadelphia, Earle Sweigert, sales manager of the Mideastern division, will supervise activities of the Paramount branches in that city, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Independents, Decree

(Continued from page 1)

which the New York court has held to be illegal. They will continue to be immune from prosecution for as long as they continue to abstain from engaging in those practices, it appears.

For example, if an independent distributor included a minimum admission clause in his license agreement he would do so at his own peril. It would subject him to action by the government or the exhibitor customer, and the New York decree could be used by the prosecution as precedent.

Wright expressed the opinion that independent producers releasing through any of the companies which are defendants in the New York suit will be unable to roadshow their pictures or exhibit them at advanced admission prices in any but the distributors' affiliated theatres after the decree becomes final, or in theatres leased by the producer.

ITOA for Arbitration

(Continued from page 1)

Association, cognizant of the Federal Court's memorandum accompanying the decree, agrees that arbitration has been of benefit to the entire industry, eliminating the need for cumbersome law suits.

"In order to maintain the practical advantages resulting from this system, the ITOA, for its member theatres, will ask any interested parties with which it may have differences, to continue arbitration by stipulation after March 1 until such time as a new and more effective system may be evolved within the confines of the industry."

20-1 Balance

(Continued from page 1)

Britain's number of filmgoers, Sir Stafford added.

"Given a fair field in America," the speaker said, "British films can become the major factor in adjusting the balance. I should like to commend the very impartial, indeed friendly, attitude of American film critics in recognizing the merits of British films, different as they are from many American productions."

While disclaiming any intention of forecasting British quota legislation, Sir Stafford expressed the hope that, by 1948, the annual number of top-bracket British pictures can be raised to 70 compared with 30 in 1946. He declared, however, that millions of people in this country are anxious to see the best pictures of other countries, but said no American would claim that some of those coming here now from the U. S. fall within the "best" category.

Sir Stafford's speech was mainly a paean of praise for Rank's endeavors and accomplishments. "People," he remarked, "often regard the motion picture industry as a matter of machines and workers. I prefer also to look upon it as an art and as one of the most important expressions of British culture."

The speaker paid special tribute to producer Sydney Box, whose "The Seventh Veil," he said, is "the eighth wonder of production," made, as it was, within the confines of a small studio.

US Still Master

(Continued from page 1)

will do England more harm than good," the producer said.

Questioned on the Production Code, which has made front pages in connection David O. Selznick's statement on Archbishop Cantwell's instruction to Catholics concerning "Duel in the Sun," Goldwyn said: "The code has been wonderfully effective for a great many years. It is justly and fairly administered, and without favoring any group of producers over any other."

He declined to comment on "Duel," saying he had not seen the picture.

Goldwyn said, "the double bill is dead as a doughnut," which statement he bulwarked with references to increased single billing in major cities and to "two-hour pictures" such as "Best Years of Our Lives," "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Yearling," and "Duel."

The chief threat to Hollywood, he said, is the influx of people from other fields "who bring with them nothing but money. Production is creative art," he said, "and newcomers equipped only with dollars will not stay long."

Warns Exhibitors

(Continued from page 1)

production. The exhibitor wants to stick to his own field," Myers said.

The Department of Justice plan to ask the Supreme Court for an injunction against cross-licensing has 'merit,' Myers said.

A ban on cross-licensing is a "very necessary measure" for the period during which divorcement would be under way, if the high court orders it, he said.

Short Subjects

"Germany—Handle With Care!"

(*March of Time-20th-Fox*)

Timely and engrossing, this latest Mach of Time serves up a comprehensive analysis of what has been happening in occupied Germany's four military zones since the Allies took [illegible] While some former Nazis appear to be thriving in black market prosperity, the film points out, countless other Germans have felt the full weight of defeat. Visually, and through the ominous intonations of crack narration, the picture leads the audience to wonder what will come of this condition and the economic and political stagnation that has gripped that nation. The Allies' efforts to bring Germany back to productivity are reviewed, and the need for intra-Allied cooperation is emphasized. Running time, 19 minutes.

"Playing by Ear"

(*M-G-M*)

An essay on the ingenuity of Bob Anderson, famous blind athlete, in devising modifications of popular sports to enable the blind to participate, this Pete Smith short reveals how golf, basketball, baseball, bowling and horseback riding are tailored to fit the needs of the sightless without losing the demands on skill and coordination. Al Schmid, ex-Marine hero, who lost his sight at Guadacanal, is shown learning how to play golf by ear, relying on instructions about the green, the description of any traps or blocks and the distance. Running time, 10 minutes.

"Pretending"

(*Columbia*)

Leading off with "Pretending," the Song Spinners, with Don Baker at the organ, in this "Community Sing" short, present "My Sugar is So Refined," "Chickery Chick," "My Gal Sal," "Apple Blossom Time," and "Linger in My Arms a Little Longer, Baby." Running time, 10 minutes.

"One Meat Brawl"

(*Warner Brothers*)

Porky Pig, an animal collector, is set on adding a groundhog to his collection. On Groundhog Day, when that animal comes out of his hole in the ground to look at his shadow, Porky sets his dog on the beast. But the groundhog, a clever talker if there ever was one, talks the dog out of attacking him, and then tells such a sad tale that Porky is moved to tears and relents. In Technicolor. Running time, seven minutes.

"So You Want to Save Your Hair"

(*Warners Brothers*)

All the comic possibilities by which a bald-headed man may try to grow a head of hair are explored in this short of Joe McDoakes who, one morning, finds some loose hairs on his brush. All the lotions, potions and mechanical contrivances fail, and Joe finally has to resort to a toupee. Running time, 10 minutes.

Intermountain Staff Shifts Are Made

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 16.—Staff shifts in Fox Intermountain Theatres in Montana, including appointment of Robert Montgomery to manage the Tower Theatre in Great Falls, and the transfer of his predecessor, Vic Walker, to the Ogden Theatre in Ogden, Utah, have been announced by Hall Baetz, district manager, on the eve of his departure for a tour of the circuit's houses in Montana. Montgomery was previously assistant to Bill Fowers in Butte.

Vaetz also disclosed that Shirley Thayne, assistant booker here for the past year, has resigned to join Universal in this city, under the direction of C. R. Wade, Universal manager.

Goodstein, Pickard In Theatre Deals

DENVER, Jan. 16.—In one of three theater sales current in the Denver territory J. J. Goodstein returns to the business after an absence of several years. He bought the Rialto, Haxtun, Colo., from R. O. Beck.

In the other two deals, W. B. Pickard bought the Arcade, Newell, S. D., from Mack Niccum, and K. M. Krause obtained the Main, Walsenburg, Colo., from Joe Giordano.

'Enfants' to Ambassador

Sir Alexander Korda's "Children of Paradise" ("Les Enfants Du Paradis") has been booked into the Ambassador Theatre for its New York premiere opening following the run of "Carmen." Costing $1,250,000, "Children of Paradise" is the first French film to be completed since the liberation to be shown in the United States. The film was produced by Pathe Films, with direction by Marcel Carne. Korda's Tricolore Films is distributing in the United States.

U-Mindako in Deal

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—Roy Miller, Minneapolis Universal branch manager, has closed a deal with Mindako Theatres for the first three "U" pictures of the current season for all outstate situations. He was assisted in the negotiations by Charles J. Feldman, Western division sales manager, and Mannie Gottlieb, Midwest district manager. Pictures involved are "The Dark Mirror," "Magnificent Doll" and "Notorious Gentleman."

Delay Scophony Hearing

Hearing of a motion by Scophony, Ltd., for dismissal of cross-claims made against it by Scophony Corp. of America and Arthur Levy, SCA president, in connection with the Government's Scophony anti-trust suit, has been postponed until Jan. 28 in Federal District Court here.

Goldstein to Florida

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—Sam Goldstein, president of Western Massachusetts Theatres, has gone to Clearwater, Fla., for a two months vacation with his family. During his absence, Harry Smith, general manager, will be in charge of the circuit.

D. & C. Names Hilton

Peter Hilton, former vice-president of Maxon, Inc., has joined Donahue and Coe, Inc., as a vice-president and account executive. During the past year Hilton was president of Musicraft Recording Corp.

Arnold Named E-L Press-book Editor

Jonas Arnold has been named press-book editor for Eagle-Lion Films by Max E. Youngstein, E-L Director of advertising, publicity and exploitation. Arnold has resigned as promotion manager of the March of Dimes campaign to accept the new post.

In addition to heading press-books, Arnold, who entered the industry from the newspaper field in 1929 as a staff member of Paramount-Publix, will also handle exhibitor relations and sales promotion for E-L.

Bixler, Spiegel Join Warner Sales Force

Bob Bixler and Phil Spiegel, formerly of Warner Brothers, field public relations staff, have been added to the sales force by Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager.

Bixler, who has been working out of the Oklahoma City branch, will now go to Cleveland. Spiegel, assistant to Art Moger in New England, with headquarters in Boston, will go to the Buffalo branch as salesman.

Film Case Guilty Plea

Mortimer Van Brink, named in a criminal information arising from arrests made by the FBI last April in connection with 16mm. prints presented by the industry to the Army, has entered a plea of guilty before U. S. District Judge Alfred C. Coxe, in the Southern district of New York to each of four counts charging him with copyright infringement.

Century Circuit to Do Own Researching

Century Theatres has completed the staffing of its new opinion research and survey department, and is making preparations to conduct its first survey, according to Martin H. Newman, Century comptroller.

Joining Harriet Lubin, who heads the department, and Ruth Samberg, are Herbert D. Berger, Mrs. Adele Elentuch, and a group of part-time graduate students from New York colleges and universities.

Livingston Is duPont Photo Ad Manager

Alden H. Livingston has succeeded J. S. Hukill as advertising manager of the photo products division of E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co., having at the same time become a division manager in charge of the department's motion picture service and exhibits and designs. DuPont manufactures and distributes raw stock for the motion picture industry, and others.

Mans, O'Reilly Sell Two

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—Paul Mans and Don O'Reilly, operating an independent circuit located principally in the Twin Cities, have sold the Harbor and State at Two Harbors, Minn., to William Holisky, with the new owner assuming immediate operation. Holisky has been on the field staff of National Screen for the past year, working out of the Minneapolis branch and covering northern Minnesota. Previous to that he was in the service during the war.

STATEWIDE WORLD PREMIERE—"IT'S A JOKE, SON!"

Austin, Paramount, Jan. 21; San Antonio, Aztec, Jan. 22; Houston, Metropolitan, Jan. 23; Dallas, Majestic, Jan. 24; Fort Worth, Hollywood, Jan. 25.

Portuguese Stand Pat on Quota Law

By JOAO DE MORAES PALMEIRO

LISBON, Jan. 11 (By airmail).—Following a long period of silence and expectation, the new Portuguese film quota law was officially published Dec. 27, ready for presentation to the Portuguese National Assembly and for official discussion. Contrary to hopes generally held by exhibitors and distributors alike, and contrary even to public opinion, only very few and unimportant amendments were added to the original text.

These changes involve a reduction in exhibition licenses for short features and newsreels and exemption of all short features imported into the country prior to Dec. 31, 1946, from the new dubbing regulations.

Among the main points of the new law are: All theatres must devote one week out of each six weeks' playing time to Portuguese product; all pictures entering Portugal must obtain a special license from the Board of Public Entertainment and must be passed by the censor; money obtained from these licenses is to go into a fund to protect the national Portuguese film industry; no Portuguese theatre may be owned or exploited by any foreign company or individual; and the screening of any pictures dubbed into Portuguese in a foreign laboratory is not permitted. An exception is made in the case of Brazilian films.

A representative of the American Motion Picture Association recently visited this country and it is known that he and M. Dickerson of the U. S. Embassy in Lisbon discussed the problem in detail, but no official statement has been issued. Only two Portuguese films have been completed so far and two more are being made. Thus, in the first months of 1947, foreign product undoubtedly will hold its own. However, all business will be affected by the uncertainty of future developments.

Lisbon's Christmas enjoyed added cheer with the opening of "Bells of St. Mary's," which was received with stormy approval by critics and the public alike. The picture is now in its third week, with day and evening performances completely sold out. Other local American successes at present are: "A Song to Remember," "Mildred Pierce," "Conflict," and a reissue of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Says S. A. 'Untapped' Projector Market

South America is virtually an untapped market for sound projector equipment, according to Robert Schasseur of Bellows, Schasseur and Co., New York export firm, who has completed a five weeks' survey of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

In the countries he visited to appoint distributors, Schasseur said a broad market for 16mm. projectors remains to be developed.

Danish Tax Mission

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—A delegation of Danish tax specialists is expected to visit Washington at an early date to conduct negotiations looking to the conclusion of treaties between the U. S. and Denmark for the avoidance of double taxation, the State Department disclosed today.

Belgium, Poland, Hungary In Film Pacts With Italy

By ARGEO SANTUCCI

ROME, Jan. 11 (By airmail).—Three international agreements, concerning the export and import of pictures to and from Italy, have been signed. Under the terms of an understanding between Italy and Poland, Italian equipment and films can be exported without the permission of Italian authorities.

An agreement between Belgium and Italy provides for the delivery of $200,000 worth of Italian 35mm. and 16mm. projectors to Belgium. In turn Belgium promises to export to Italy about 48,000 pounds of film stock with about 32,000 pounds destined for the use of the industry.

An Italian-Hungarian pact calls for the exchange of pictures between the two countries with details to be worked out in a supplementary agreement. Italy also promises to export to Hungary film stock in the value of about $20,000.

Columbia Pictures, represented in Italy by the CEIAD concern, is planning to produce four pictures in Italy within the next six months, it is reported. Gregor Rabinovitch is in charge of the project. He has sent William Sekely to Italy and preparations for these four productions have been completed. Two of the pictures will be in Italian, the rest will be Italo-American.

Shareholders of the Lux Film Co. have decided on the need of increasing capital from $44,440 to $444,440 and that this increase would have to be realized by Nov., 1947.

It was pointed out that present costs of production are very high and that the company has been obliged to borrow large amounts from banks.

The Ente Nazionale Industrie Cinematografiche, largest Italian theatre circuit, has reached an agreement with Armando Leoni distributing company, which is connected with the Italian producing company, Scalera Films and with Trans-World Films. The agreement follows a period of rumors which said ENIC had signed to show 20th Century-Fox or Rank pictures exclusively.

Under the new arrangement ENIC will show native or foreign productions of which the distributors are the sole agency in Italy. The circuit will receive 35 per cent of the gross. ENIC has cancelled its arrangement with Italfrancofilm Co. The French films imported by Italfrancofilm in the future will be distributed by Generalcine.

New Color Supply Is in the Making

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. — Samples of the German Afga color-film process have already been made available and a sample short subject has been produced of the special film, Nathan D. Golden, Commerce Department film consultant, disclosed here today.

Golden said that the new type color is "good," and will cost approximately the same as Technicolor. Greatest stride in the development of Afga color has been made by Ansco, he added. Golden and industry representatives procured the color process direct from Germany after the war ended.

Ansco is the only U. S. company holding patent rights to the development, controlled by the Alien Property Custodian.

Golden concluded that there may be a supply of Agfa color flowing to producers within a year.

2nd Indian Film

Following release of "Shakuntala," scheduled for next month as the first film said to have been made in India to be shown here, Mayer and Burstyn, Inc., will release "The Journey of Dr. Kotnis," topical drama, first film produced in India with English dialogue. Producer-director V. Shantaram plays the title role, with his wife, Jayashree, as the feminine lead.

'Francis I' Premiere

The American premiere of "Francis the First," French film starring Fernandel, will be held at the Hippodrome Theatre, Washington, tomorrow, it was announced here by Noel Meadow and B. L. Garner, who are distributing it in this country for Vog Film Co.

Stromberg Sees End Of 'Lush Grosses'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16. — Declaring lush grosses are drying up, producer Hunt Stromberg declares, "This current return to normalcy, sometimes referred to as a recession, actually will be a golden opportunity for independent producers. The day of the assembly-line method of making pictures is over. During the heyday of fast film profits Hollywood was inclined to take the line of least resistance. Now audiences are shopping for their entertainment, and demand quality and intelligence.

"It is the logical time for the independent producer to make his move," Stromberg continued, adding: "During this time, he must not curtail his activity nor economize in production, advertising, or exploitation, not limit himself in imagination or originality."

Star to Tour Britain

Gloria Jean, in connection with completion in March of her first adult role in Sam Coslow's "Copacabana," will make a personal appearance tour of the British Isles. The trip, covering England, Scotland and Wales, will also include an appearance in Berlin for American troops stationed there. She will receive $75,000 for 10 weeks' minimum engagement with an option for eight additional weeks.

'Arch' Music Recorded

Enterprise will create a souvenir album of four records of "Arch of Triumph," to reach the public four weeks prior to national release of the Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer co-starrer.

Heavy Schedule for Two Rank Studios

J. Arthur Rank's Shepherd's Bush and Islington Studios in England are to be busier in 1947 than they were ever before, a spokesman for the Rank Organization discloses here. Sydney Box, executor producer for Gainsborough films, plans to economize in space and to plan production schedules so that the maximum number of films may be made during the year at both studios, it was said.

Already in production at Shepherd's Bush, Box has "Jassy," starring Katina Paxinou, Jean Simmons and David Farrar, in Technicolor, and "Holiday Camp." The former is scheduled to finish at the end of January with "Holiday Camp," starring Flora Robson and Jean Kent, running into mid-February. David MacDonald is slated to take his unit into production at the end of January with "Good-Time Girl" starring Jean Kent.

Islington—where Betty Box is in charge of production—is now busy with "Dear Murderer," St. John Legh Clowe's play, which is being directed by Arthur Crabtree. Betty Box will follow immediately with "When the Bough Breaks," to be directed by Lawrence Huntingdon.

Sydney Box's program for 1947 is not finalized as yet, but he has already outlined several subjects, among these being a Technicolor production of "Christopher Columbus" on which Dallas Bowen will act as associate producer and it will be directed by David MacDonald. Other subjects at present outlined include an original by Muriel and Sydney Box, called "Marry-go-Round," to star Patricia Roc; "Forgotten Story," to be adapted from a book by Winston Graham; "The Melody Lingers On;" "Four Poster," to be directed by Compton Bennett in the spring; two subjects written with starring roles for Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne; a film to be directed by Bernard Knowles, probably an adaptation of Winston Graham's "Merciless Ladies" or "Doctor's Story;" and a Technicolor production, "Melba" based on the life of the Australian prima donna.

Variety Renames Rose; He Sets Committees

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Jack Rose, reelected chief barker of the Variety Club of Illinois, tent No. 26, has announced the following committee head appointments:

George Topper, budget and finance; Sam Levinson, membership; Lou Goldberg, delinquents; Al Raymer, house committee; Harry Blumenthal, decorations; Robert Goldstein, auditing; Sol Ehrenberg, entertainment; Ben Lourie, reception and fellowship; Bill Hunt, publicity; George Topper, tickets; Les Simansky, sports; Aaron Stein, law; "Chick" Evens, celebrities; Walter Immerman, The Heart; Edward Brunnell, ways and means; Will Baker, welfare; Erwin Fensin, Photography.

China Film Office Here

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 16.—China Film Enterprises of America, Inc., incorporated in Delaware, has New York offices at 35 Park Ave., according to a certificate recorded here. H. C. Wang is president of the company. Spence, Hotchkiss, Parker and Duryea were incorporating attorneys.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61, NO. 13 — NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1947 — TEN CENTS

Foothold in Most Europe Places: Maas

Hollywood Films Gain In All But 3 Countries

By IRVING KAPLAN

While the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia remain the only three European countries in which the Motion Picture Export Association has yet to establish a foothold, American product has begun to flow into Poland and Holland, newly-acquired outlets among the 13 nations originally chartered for MPEA activities, and the organization's own one-reel newsreel, "International News" is being exhibited in Holland, Hungary and Romania.

Irving Maas

This indication of MPEA's success

(Continued on page 6)

E-L Has Spent $12,000,000

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—An expenditure of $12,000,000 to date has been made by Eagle-Lion on its first eight productions already completed or well along in production, it was disclosed here by Arthur B. Krim, president of the company, on the eve of the actual start of the company in distribution, with the opening of E-L's "It's a

(Continued on page 6)

SPG Expanding to 24 Films in 1947

Producers releasing through Screen Guild Productions will deliver 24 pictures to the company during 1947, compared with nine delivered in 1946, the first year of operation, Robert Lippert, SGP president, announced at a

(Continued on page 6)

Benton Holds All Common Stock of Factual Film Firm

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Common stock of Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., Chicago, is 100 per cent owned by Assistant Secretary of State William Benton who supervises the international cultural relations program of the Government, according to the corporation's records.

The company specializes in educational and documentary films for distribution in this country and abroad. South Africa is one of its major clients for educational reels.

Benton procured the stock from the University of Chicago when Gen. Robert T. Wood of Sears-Roebuck offered to give the Encyclopedia

(Continued on page 4)

Vote to Hold To 20% Tax

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Continuation of the admission and all other wartime excise rates for a year beyond July 1 was approved by unanimous vote of the House Ways and Means Committee, Chairman Harold Knutson of Minnesota reports. Treasury officials were consulted before the vote was taken.

In order to expedite passage of the

(Continued on page 4)

Loew's Stockholders Meeting on Feb. 27

Annual stockholders meeting of Loew's, Inc., will be held in New York on Feb. 27, with the election of directors principally on the agenda. All incumbent directors are slated for re-election. Following this the board will elect officers.

State-Federal 'Tax Rivalry' Ban Asked

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A proposal was submitted to the Senate on Friday to create a Congressional State Study Commission to eliminate "tax rivalry" between states and the Federal Government, such as the double taxation existing on theatre admissions in many areas.

The suggestion was named by Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey. He told the Senate that Governor-Elect Alfred E. Driscoll of his state recommended the commission to him.

Pointing out that during the war, states had to give up various sources of taxation because of the emergency effort, Smith said that the Federal and State Governments should now have some working agreement on taxation.

"It is not wise for a state to tax goods and services already taxed by the Federal Government. Also, it is unfair for Congress to pass taxes on enterprises which should rightly fall under the state," Senator Smith said.

Paramount's Telecasts Cost $500,000 Yearly

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—Paramount Pictures is spending $500,000 a year on its television station here, WBKB, it is revealed by Cap. William C. Eddy, director of the B. and K. television station. Eddy said that the station is permitted to lose up to $8,000 per week.

The B. and K. television head said he expected that within a year the station would begin to show a profit, despite the tremendous cost involved in its operation, basing his contention on the rapid growth of television listeners in the Chicago area. He reported that the television audience already is near the 10,000 mark in Chicago alone. He stated that 72 per cent of television sets are in private homes and the rest are located in commercial institutions.

Touching on the question of whether television will affect grosses in the motion picture industry, Eddy said that exhibitors have nothing to fear from the new medium. He predicted that very few theatres will interrupt their regular theatre performances to put on a special television "flash."

Eddy did say that the future would find small theatres set up for the specific purpose of presenting television programs. These small theatres, he said, will have sell-outs any time they present special events such as a Presidential speech; Army-Navy game, or other current event with widespread appeal.

Decree Would Force 'U' to Buy Theatres

Claim 'Show Case' Right Hit by Franchise Ban

The final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, as written at present, would compel Universal to buy theatres in order to acquire "show windows," counsel for the company will tell the three-judge statutory court here on Wednesday in connection with a motion for modifying the court's ban of franchise deals.

'U' ought to be permitted to acquire such outlets for its product "through franchises not unreasonably restraining the trade of competing theatres," counsel for the company will point out at the hearing. It will also be stated that "the decree unconditionally preserved to the major de-

(Continued on page 6)

Jackson Park Verdict Hit

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—The defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre case, in which Judge Michael L. Igoe of the U. S. District Court issued an injunction decree Oct. 16, have filed a statement claiming that the judge had no right to hand down such a sweeping injunction based on evidence presented to a jury on the Jackson Park's previous triple-damage anti-trust suit won by the theatre. Judge Igoe's in-

(Continued on page 4)

MPTOA Asks Court To Clarify Decree

Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America asked the New York Federal court on Friday for clarification of four questions raised by apparent omissions from the decree.

The request was made in a letter ad-

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue

"I'll Be Yours," "Ginger" and "Song of the Sierras" are reviewed on page 8.

Personal Mention

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th-Fox president, left New York Friday for the Coast, accompanied by his assistant, LEM JONES.

•

HAP BARNES of Drive-In Theatres, Montgomery, Ala.; NAT WILLIAMS, showman from South Georgia, and LUKIE STEIN and CARL FLOYS, Florida exhibitors, have been in Atlanta on business.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, Warner Theatres executive, is a grandfather for the third time, a son being born to his daughter DORIS, wife of CAPT. ROSS S. CARLSON.

•

H. C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern Exchanges, and BAILEY PRITCHARD, Memphis branch manager, were in St. Louis recently.

•

DOROTHY M. IRWIN, daughter of JAMES R. IRWIN, exhibitor at Laconia, N. H., was married recently to CAPT. ANTHONY T. TORART, JR., AUS.

•

JOSEPH L. STEIN of the New York legal firm of Sargoy and Stein, and MRS. STEIN are the parents of a second child, JANE, born here Friday.

•

MRS. SARA SMITH, head of the accounting department of Columbia in Atlanta, has returned to that office after several weeks of illness.

•

GUS SUN, JR., president of a booking exchange at Springfield, Ohio, and MRS. SUN are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary.

•

MOSES SLIMAN, owner of the Lux Theatre in Luxora, Ark., is flying to his native Syria via New York and Egypt for a holiday.

•

MOREY MARCUS, Paramount manager in the Far East, left here Saturday aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* for England.

•

HARVEY LAMB of Warners exchange, Memphis, and his wife are the parents of a girl, born in Independence, Mo.

•

N. J. COLQUHOUN, district manager for Republic in Dallas, was a Memphis visitor late last week.

•

RALPH MCCOY, special representative for Eagle-Lion in Atlanta, has returned from Charlotte.

•

CHARLES EINFELD, head of Enterprise Prod., is due to arrive in New York from the Coast.

•

BEN CAMMACK, RKO Radio district manager at Dallas, viisted Memphis late last week.

•

PAT CASEY, producers' labor representative, has left New York for the Coast.

•

GENE RAYMOND, RKO Radio player, will arrive here from Hollywood today.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

FOR whatever it may be worth to anyone interested in figuring the "odds" on the chances of winning a Supreme Court appeal on controversial sections of the New York decree, here is how the high court justices lined up on a recent decision involving licensing rights under patents, a question not too remote from licensing rights under copyrights:

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson joined with the so-called "liberal" justices, Hugo L. Black, William O. Douglas, Frank Murphy and Wiley Rutledge in a five to four opinion against the so-called "conservative" justices, Felix Frankfurter, Robert H. Jackson and Harold H. Burton, who were joined in their dissent by Justice Stanley F. Reed.

Justice Black wrote the majority opinion and Justice Frankfurter the dissenting opinion. The latter charged that the majority had failed to properly consider a 90-year old doctrine which had been established by the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision, namely, that a licensee cannot challenge the validity of a patent though everyone else may.

"That principle," Justice Frankfurter wrote, "has withstood judicial scrutiny for nearly a century." The result of the majority decision, he contended, is that "all future arrangements between licensor and licensee are overhung by a cloud of doubt."

Apart from the "liberal"-"conservative" lineup with the Chief Justice supporting the former, the case holds some interest for the legal-minded in the industry because of its relation to licensing rights.

Quite a few attorneys for defendant companies in the industry anti-trust suit are convinced that some phases of the New York court decree, particularly the competitive bidding plan and the prohibition on franchises, are invasions of the rights of copyright owners.

• •

Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, has declared himself in favor of immediate organization of a motion picture forum comprising exhibitor-distributor representation and designed to bring the two industry divisions into closer accord through discussion and possible adjustment of mutual problems.

Wehrenberg was the originator of the idea and also suggested Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, as moderator of the forum. Johnston, who has repeatedly urged greater harmony within the industry, responded immediately that he would be glad to serve if invited to do so. Last week, spokesmen at Johnston's Washington office indicated that Supreme Court appeals from the New York court decree would have to be disposed of before Johnston could take an active part in the forum.

That appears to be the view of most company and exhibitor representatives whose participation in the forum would be essential to its formation and functioning. Accordingly, it is to be expected that when the MPTOA board of directors considers the subject of the proposed forum at its meeting tomorrow in St. Louis it will recommend that action on the forum be held in abeyance until Supreme Court appeals, if any, have been decided.

Between now and the final disposition of possible appeals in the industry anti-trust suit, there is an opportunity to do a great deal of necessary missionary and spade-work on behalf of the ultimate organization of the forum. As the sponsor of the plan, MPTOA would do well to begin that work now.

• •

With the key Congressional committees on finance and taxation leaning now in the direction of an extension of the wartime admission tax, among others, for a year beyond next June 30, and urged in that direction by Republican majority leaders, it would seem that if organized exhibition is not to lose the contest by default it had better "get to dustin'."

A first step which, if not a requisite to a proper campaign on behalf of exhibition, then a good one, in any event, would be for the national and regional exhibitor organizations to combine forces and develop a coordinated campaign against extension of the admission tax and for its immediate reduction.

Obviously, the chances of success are not too good. They will not be improved by exhibitions of animosity within exhibitor ranks, or by contradictory testimony before Congressional committees, both of which are made possible by exhibitor organizations which pursue their own way and shun consultation with their fellow organizations.

Newsreel Parade

PRESIDENT TRUMAN meeting with GOP leaders, the French Indo-China rebellion, installation of new Protestant Episcopal Bishop Sherrill, winter sports, and the start of the 1947 "March of Dimes" drive are among subjects presented in current newsreels; complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 41—President's first meeting with GOP Congressional leaders. French take action to solve crisis in Indo-China. New Protestant Bishop installed at Washington cathedral. Margaret Truman launches 1947 "March of Dimes." Scenic fashions in the Grand Canyon. Winter sports: Silver Skates, skiing in the Alps and in Oregon.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 239—Indo-China crisis. President confers with GOP leaders. "March of Dimes" launched in Washington and New York. New Episcopal Bishop installed in Washington. Fashions: ski togs and lingerie. Sports: Silver Skates, skiing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 42—Arab prince flies to U. S. Episcopal church installs new presiding bishop. Inside the Saar. Amateur boxing.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 44—Champs vie for Silver Skates. Jersey cows shown in Vienna show. Bi-partisan group meets with President Truman. Troubled Indo-China. "March of Dimes" underway. New Episcopal Bishop.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 5—First Lady and Margaret Truman open "March of Dimes" drive. New Protestant Episcopal Bishop. French minister investigates Indo-China rebellion. Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad inaugurates first motion picture theatre on rails. Confiscated gambling macihnes junked. Coyote hunting by airplane.

Wehrenberg in Last Local MPTO Meet

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 19.—Fred Wehrenberg, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, is expected to submit his resignation as head of the MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois at a meeting of the Midwest affiliate in the Hotel Jefferson here tomorrow. Wehrenberg will devote his full time to the national organization, it is understood.

On the agenda for tomorrow's session are a discussion of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, led by Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel; launching of the Motion Picture Foundation in this territory, and planning of cooperation with the industry's campaign to finance the adoption of orphans under the Greek War Relief program.

Unaffiliated members of the MPTOA board will meet at the Jefferson on Tuesday to outline further plans to be taken by the organization in the event of an appeal of the decree suit to the U. S. Supreme Court. Admission tax problems will be discussed, along with the Motion Picture Forum, as proposed by Wehrenberg, with representatives of distributors expected to be present to explain the views of their companies regarding the forum plan.

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The Razor's Edge

THE WORLD'S CHAMPION BOXOFFICE GROSSER

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WORLD'S GREATEST HOLDOVER CHAMPION

The longest and greatest engagement in the history of the 6000 seat Roxy, N. Y. C.!

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20th CENTURY-FOX

Industry Meeting on Greek Relief Appeal

The Motion Picture Industry Appeal committee for war orphans of Greece held a meeting in the Hotel Astor here at the weekend for the purpose of exchanging ideas, preparing promotional material and forming plans for the campaign which will be a part of the National Greek War Relief drive. The industry's campaign has been dedicated in honor of 20th-Fox president Spyros P. Skouras.

Ben Serkowich, co-publicity chairman with S. Barret McCormick, presided at the meeting, which was attended by Ned E. Depinet and Si Fabian, who with Jack Cohn are national chairmen of the general committee. Also attending were: Robert Coyne, William Plunkett, Leon Bamberger, Edward Soloman, Arthur Brilant, David A. Lipton, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Steve Edwards, Milton Silver, Gordon Swarthout, Joseph Stahl, Phil Laufer, Don Gillette, Al Zimbalist, Stirling Silliphant, Peter Levathes and Si Fabian, Jr.

Pathe Laboratories Opens New Building

Pathe Laboratories, Inc., headed by Kenneth Young, formally opened its new building here on Friday with a number of film executives in attendance. The plant has a printing capacity of 600,000,000 feet per year. An adjacent four-story building is planned to handle all the work now being done in the company's Boundbrook, N. J., plant.

At the opening were John J. O'Connor, Thomas Mead, Frederic Ullman, Robert Savini, Ray Gallo, Donald Hyndman, Norman Oakley, John Reilly, Robert Hiller, Sam Goldstein, H-Alban Mestanza, Americo Benefico, George Stevens, George Arthur and others.

Jackson Park Case

(*Continued from page* 1)

junction called for a radical change in the Chicago clearance system, with one of the provisions limiting Loop runs of the defendants to two weeks. The defendants are all major distributors and B. and K. and Warner Theatre circuits.

One of the points on which the defendants will establish their appeal of the decree, based on the statement they have filed, is that "a general verdict for damages does not expressly decide anything except that the defendants were found guilty on one or more of the theories of recovery embraced by the issues. The evidence introduced by the plaintiffs on the issue of estoppel by verdict claiming the jury's verdict obviated the need of evidence on the injunction, reveals that several theories of conspiracy were put in issue and submitted to the jury, but failed to show that any specific one or more of those theories necessarily was the basis of the jury's verdict." The defendants also held Judge Igoe had no right to ban double features. They claim Igoe's decree in effect "prohibits the defendant exhibitors, regardless of the absence of any conspiracy or unlawful combination, from the use of double-feature programs in their theatres although the use of double-feature programs is not unlawful and such prohibition would place the defendant exhibitors at a disadvantage with plaintiffs' and other non-defendant theatres."

Point of Criticism

Another point in Judge Igoe's decree that was criticized was the judge's verdict that "no exhibitor can successfully operate a theatre without reasonable access to the product of the distributor defendants." The defendants claim that a proper finding under the evidence could go no farther than to say that a theatre of the type and location of the Jackson Park cannot successfully operate without reasonable access to the product of the distributor defendants. The distributors in their filed statement contend that the injunctive decree went beyond the evidence when the court ruled they made coercive use of their buying power. They also claim the decree is "punitive rather than remedial" in purpose and effect because it does not attempt to restore or protect the competition allegedly restrained by the defendants.

The jury trial was held in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals which reversed Judge Igoe's guilty verdict on the Jackson Park's triple damage anti-trust suit. The Supreme Court subsequently upheld Judge Igoe's verdict and awarded the Jackson Park $300,000 damages.

AMPA Board Meeting

The board of directors of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will hold a luncheon-meeting at the Hotel Edison here tomorrow. AMPA president Rutgers Neilson will officiate.

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Selznick Considers 'Duel' Objections

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—The Executive Council of the Los Angeles Federation of Protestant Churches has deferred for one week possible action on "Duel in the Sun," from which the Federation had requested deletions.

The postponement followed a conversation with producer Daniel O. Selznick, who had asked for time in which to study the Federation's suggestions. A Federation spokesman states that if the picture is not altered in a manner considered satisfactory, the council's action will parallel generally that taken by Archbishop Cantwell who instructed all Catholic priests in the Archdiocese to advise congregations against attending the picture pending its classification by the National Legion of Decency.

MPTOA Asks Court

(*Continued from page* 1)

dressed to the presiding judges in the industry case, Augustus N. Hand, John Bright and Henry W. Goddard, by Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel.

The letter points out that the decree puts no specific prohibition against the forcing of shorts and newsreels with features; that the decree fails to specifically order trade showing of features in advance of their licensing, and that it does not state whether defendant distributors are free to reject all flat-rental bids received for a picture under the new competitive bidding system and, if so, whether new bids may then be asked for.

MPTOA asks what the court intended with respect to the four questions raised.

N. Y. Regents Uphold Bowen on "Outlaw"

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 17.—Recommendation that the New York Legislature amend its education law to give the motion picture division power to refuse a license and revoke a license granted, if obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious, or objectionable advertising "through any medium or means reaching the people of the state were used in connection with a picture, was made in the Regents' ruling today upholding Director Ward Bowen's action refusing to revoke the permit for "The Outlaw." New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding appealed, in October, for revocation of the state seal for Howard Hughes' feature on the ground that indecent advertising had been and was being used to exploit it. Dr. Bowen rejected the appeal, holding there were no grounds for action.

Anti-Bingo Bill

CINCINNATI, Jan. 19.—One of the first measures to be introduced in the new Senate at Columbus, sponsored by Senator George G. Shurtz, would nullify an amendment by Senator Lawrence Kane, passed four years ago, legalizing Bingo when conducted for religious or charitable purposes, and without individual profit. The game, widely played here, has been an appreciable source of theatre competition, particularly for neighborhood houses.

Benton Holdings

(*Continued from page* 1)

Britannica to the university, which refused to accept the financial obligation. Then vice-president of the university, Benton offered to invest his own money in the company and run the business, which then was on a paying basis. The university's board accepted his proposal, and an agreement was made on stock disposition.

The university was given [illegible] preferred stock and one-third of the common stock. Benton had two-thirds of the common, with an agreement to sell it to the university after 18 months.

When the 18-months period was up in 1944, the university board met and decided to continue the agreement. But instead of Benton returning the stock, the board presented him the other one-third common. This made him the holder of all common stock of the company.

Benton started the film section of the company. He resigned as chairman of the board of Encyclopedia Britannica before entering the Government service in September, 1945. However, he still maintains a private secretary at the offices of Encyclopedia Britannica in New York, and has dealings there.

The State Department Office of International Films is reported to have procured several documentary pictures from Encyclopedia Britannica for exhibition abroad. The department office here refuses to make public a list of contracts let, however.

The Department stated that Benton does not get special favors for his company.

The New York office of Encyclopedia Britannica confirms here that the State Department had during the course of 1946 acquired six educational films from the company, each in five different languages, Dutch, Norwegian, Czechoslovakian, French and Greek. Details of the deals were said not to be known here.

Hold 20% Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

bill continuing wartime rates, the measure will go directly to the House floor, by-passing the Rules Committee. The wartime admissions rate of 20 per cent will continue in place of the 10 per cent pre-war figure, which it was hoped would be restored.

Wartime rates are being continued because of the budget and national debt, it was said. President Truman recommended in his message to Congress that the action be taken.

Personal income rates will be reduced approximately five to eight per cent, it is reliably reported. Corporations and excess profits taxes will come second in priority, with a small reduction for the next fiscal year seen.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

Century's Newman Warns on Economics

More careful operation and closer scrutiny of expenses are indicated for exhibitors at this point in the economic cycle, as well as lowered film rentals and stabilization of admission prices, according to Martin H. Newman, comptroller for Century Theatres, operating in Greater New York.

"In the economic cycle," Newman said, in a "caution report" to Century personnel, "a point is finally reached where the consumer calls a halt and decides not to purchase. This has not happened to the motion picture industry as yet; business has held up. But a look at today's papers and the many sales advertised are an index that consumer resistance is a breathing thing."

Newman pointed out that this led him to believe that careful consideration should be given before any admission price increases are made.

"Certainly," he declared, "pre-war admission prices were entirely too low to compensate for the entertainment a patron received. Present admission prices, however, seem to represent a fair scale for two or three hours of entertainment. We should be careful not to risk the glutted markets that exist today in many lines because of consumer resistance, some of which is organized."

The Century comptroller stated that exhibitor feeling on film rentals is that they had passed the saturation point, and consequently, presented a fertile field for reducing expenses. "In addition," he concluded, "we must once again return to careful operation, with close scrutiny of expenses, to determine wherein profits may be stabilized."

PRC's Roth, Hendel Here for Parleys

Max Roth, Eastern sales manager of Producers Releasing Corp. and James Hendel, district manager for Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, will arrive in New York today for conferences on forthcoming PRC product with Lloyd L. Lind, vice-president and assistant general manager, and other company executives.

'Depinet Drive' Meet

RKO Radio home office sales executives will attend a meeting here of the current "Ned Depinet Drive" today, to be conducted by Len S. Gruenberg, drive captain, who will be introduced by Charles Boasberg, metropolitan district manager. Personnel of the RKO Radio New York exchange will take part in the meeting.

10% ABPC Dividend

LONDON, Jan. 19.—ABPC has announced a 10 per cent ordinary dividend, less tax, for the year ending March 31, compared to 7½ per cent for the previous year.

WANTED

Competent stenographer with motion picture distribution background and experience to handle correspondence, filing, and general office routine work in important film exporter office in New York. Salary commensurate with ability with chance for advancement. Pleasant personality plus loyalty essential. Write for appointment and stipulate qualifications, if presently employed, and give references.

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1,784 Morale Shows By Hollywood in '46

Hollywood, Jan. 19.—More than 500 Hollywood players carried through 1946 the wartime program of free entertainment for service men overseas and veterans in hospitals, the Hollywood Coordinating Committee reveals.

Hollywood artists contributed their services for 1,784 appearances in 717 patriotic and charitable events during the 12 months.

One Coast Charity Collection Stays

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—The motion picture industry's Permanent Charities Committee has met the refusal to accept $30,000 for the Infantile Paralysis Foundation with the announcement that it will continue to make one annual collection for all except religious purposes.

The Los Angeles Community Chest, which is the chief beneficiary of the $1,545,375 contributed last year by 20,048 Hollywood film industry donors, with a per capita average of $77, is backing up the Permanent Committee.

The 1945 disbursement to the Los Angeles Community Chest was $1,015,337 and to the American Red Cross, $722,649. Basil O'Connor, in his capacity as chairman of the American Red Cross, has indicated his intention to reject the somewhat smaller allocation of $516,000 as Hollywood's 1946 contribution to the Red Cross.

The American Red Cross, the Los Angeles Community Chest and the March of Dimes are the only three beneficiaries of the 1946 payroll deductions and contributions of motion picture personnel here through their Permanent Charities Commitee, established in May, 1940.

Skouras Jersey Theatres Join March of Dimes

All Skouras theatres in Hudson County, N. J., and Rockland County, N. Y. have joined the March of Dimes to collect through Jan. 30.

Emil C. Jensen, director of the motion picture division of the March of Dimes, who made the announcement about the Skouras theatres on Friday, also stated that Long Theatres, Texas, and McCarthy Theatrical Enterprises, Fargo, N. D., will cooperate in all of their houses.

Para. to Tradeshow Two

Paramount will trade show "Easy Come, Easy Go" on Jan. 31 in all exchange areas, except New York, where the film will be shown on Jan. 30; on Feb. 7, the company will tradeshow "Suddenly It's Spring" in all exchange areas.

Cagney Adds 'Life'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—William Cagney has revised his 1947 production schedule in order to put before the cameras as early as possible—probably in February—William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life," which the producer has lately acquired.

Admissions Doubled In the Philippines

Admission prices in the Philippines have doubled since the end of the war, with some Manila first-runs now charging as much as $1.80 for choice seats, Cliff Almy, Warners Far Eastern supervisor, now in New York, discloses. Almy, who will leave here on Wednesday for the Coast en route to his headquarters in Manila, reported that all five of that city's war-damaged first-runs have been rebuilt to meet modern standards and are enjoying good business.

Many 35mm. prefabricated theatres have mushroomed across the islands during the past eight months, and an increased number of 16mm. mobile units are in evidence in the provinces, Almy revealed. Native product (Philippine studios turn out approximately 40 pictures a year) offer strong competition to American films, particularly in the provinces, he said.

Altec Meeting Closes On Note of Progress

DETROIT, Jan. 19.—The last day of Altec Service Corp.'s meeting here ended at the weekend with a strong emphasis on Altec's program for 1947, which represents Altec's 10th anniversary.

"Expansion in the field of service, combined with a better trained organization, should enhance Altec service to the motion picture industry and allied activities," a company statement said.

Theatre Operations Award to Chet Miller

DENVER, Jan. 19.—The Clayton Long award, a cup given annually by Fox Intermountain Theatres to the manager doing the best all-around job in theatre operation, was awarded for 1946 by Frank H. Ricketson. Jr., president, to Chet E. Miller, city manager at Sterling, Colo. Maintenance awards went to H. E. Goodridge, Ogden, Denver; Ed Nelson, city manager, Montrose, Colo.; Robert Anderson, city manager, Pocatello, Ida.; Don Smith, city manager, Longmont, Colo.

Courtesy plaques went to Helen Spiller, Esquire, Denver; Robert C. Nelson, city manager, Leadville, Colo.; Tom Brennan, city manager, Laramie, Wyo.; Don Sheedy, city manager, Billings, Mont.

Adopt Special Policy For 'Years' Showings

"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn's three-hour film, will be shown for the first time under a new exhibition policy, beginning with its engagement at the Fulton Theatre, Pittsburgh, on March 5th, the Goldwyn office here reports.

The picture will be shown four times daily: at 11:00 A.M., at 2:30, at 6:00 and at 9:30 in the evening. Each performance will be reserved, but individual seats will not be, the number of tickets sold equaling the seating capacity of the theatre. Reservations may be made four weeks in advance.

Maas, Europe

(*Continued from page* 1)

in Europe's "toughest zone" was offered Friday by Irving Maas, vice-president and general manager of the MPEA, upon his return here aboard the *SS. Queen Elizabeth* from a three-month survey of the European situation and its prospects.

Austrian theatres will receive the newsreel shortly, he added, expressing the hope that Czechoslovakia and Poland would also enter the agreement. Maas, who said that he would embark on another trip "within the next few months," revealed that the MPEA is "in contact" with "proper authorities" in Russia and Bulgaria and that Gene Birkham was scheduled to arrive in Yugoslavia on Friday, but that there are no immediate prospects for reaching accords in those countries.

Warning that a revival of the German industry may bring that country back again into competition with the rest of the film world, the MPEA executive emphasized that he is not thinking in financial terms alone. Culturally and socially, he pointed out, the Germans are still infected with "Nazi poison," and "perhaps what they need more than anything else is a strong dose of films from all over the world, instead of product from their own studios."

He cited the bustling activity in all four German occupation zones, sponsored by the respective occupying powers, as assuring the physical renaissance of the German motion picture industry and disclosed that Germany will produce between 50 and 60 films this year compared with a prewar output of about 100.

The Rosenhuegel Studios, which is under Russian administration, "has probably the greatest sound equipment in the world," Maas asserted, adding that Nazi-built studios have been enlarged. This activity, however, is not unique to the Russians alone, he stressed.

Johnston Warns British On New Restrictions

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Reporting on his recent English trip at a luncheon of studio heads and production executives in the Beverly Hills Hotel today, Eric Johnston warned them that further British restrictions upon American films would breed quotas in other countries, with harm resulting to the British as well as the American motion picture industry.

"Every country with a struggling film industry would follow the British example," Johnston said. "Instead of Britain finding expanding trade overseas for films, she would meet resistance."

While in England, he stressed to the British the fact that the United States has no tariffs, quotas or other barriers on importation of foreign films, and urged the British to continue for another year her present quota law requiring 20 percent of theatre playing time for British films.

"I explained to British officials, producers, labor leaders and exhibitors," Johnston said, "that we in America hoped for a greater exchange of films between countries of the world, and hoped to avoid further restrictions. I proposed an international motion picture institute to work for the removal of trade restrictions and barriers. I found much agreement with my point of view."

Johnston Gives Stand On Proposed Forum

Hollywood, Jan. 17.—Questioned by *Motion Picture Daily* as to present opinion concerning the proposed Motion Picture Forum, Eric Johnston said, "I consider the time is ripe for setting up this type of organization." Asked whether he is willing to accept the chairmanship forum, he said, "there appears to have been some misunderstanding to the effect that the Forum was my idea. It was not. I am strongly in favor of it, however, and am anxious to help out in any way that I can in connection with its formation and operation."

SPG Expanding

(*Continued from page* 1)

luncheon for company executives, franchise holders and trade press representatives in the Sherry-Netherland Hotel here on Friday. The 24 new films, having an average production cost of around $135,000 each, will be in addition to 12 Hopalong-Cassidy reissues, the same number as last year, Lippert added.

Reporting that most of the 1946 films, notably "Wildfire," "God's Country," "My Dog Shep" and "Rolling Home," did quite satisfactory business, especially in rural areas, the SGP chief said the company's most ambitious production to date, "Shoot to Kill," will be released about March 1. Three films are being delivered this month, six more are ready for delivery and five will be completed during January and February. One of the latter, "Scared to Death," is in Cinecolor. Screen Guild recently bought the rights to James Oliver Curwood's "Kazan," Lippert reported.

"Take a Chance"

Expressing gratification at finding that "exhibitors today are willing to take a chance on little companies," Lippert declared that Screen Guild's officers and franchise holders, "basically a group of theatre men, are more or less donating their services to get this thing started."

SGP personnel at the luncheon, besides the president, were: Nat Beier, Eastern district manager and head of Screen Guild of New York; Arthur Lockwood and Louis Gordon, New England franchise holders; Jack Engel, Philadelphia; Al Grubstick, San Francisco; Francis White, Charlotte; John Mangum, Atlanta; William Pizor, the company's foreign manager, and Carol and Sidney B. Weill, who handle SGP's press books on a contract basis.

Following sales conferences here this week, Lippert will return to his Coast headquarters next Saturday; the franchise holders will leave for their respective territories at the same time.

Rubin to Popcorn Firm

OMAHA, Jan. 14.—E. Rubin, Paramount salesman, who has spent 23 years with the company, including 19 in the Omaha territory, has resigned to become Western division manager for Interstate Popcorn Co. He will have headquarters in Los Angeles.

'U' and Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

fendants the right to maintain 'show windows' for their own pictures."

As a further argument for franchises, the company's petition declares: "In situations in which there are presently no theatres, it is obvious that potential exhibitors will not put money into theatre projects unless long-term, prior-run commitments can be obtained for the pictures of one or more distributors. In such situations, therefore, the granting of franchises is plainly in the public benefit."

Universal suggests that the court's present injunction against any distributor defendant "from performing any existing franchise to which it is a party and from making any franchises in the future" to be supplemented with the words: "except such as do not unreasonably restrain the trade of competing theatres." Moreover, it would amend the provision that "each license shall be offered and taken theatre by theatre and picture by picture" with the addition of: "except as otherwise authorized hereby."

Court Findings

Noting that the court's findings of fact lumped all distributor defendants together in holding that their franchises unreasonably restrain trade because they cover more than one season and embrace all the features released by a given distributor, Universal seeks a change in this language to read: "Franchises have been entered into by the distributor defendants with affiliated and independent circuits, and such franchises unreasonably restrain trade" (for the reasons already given) "and also because they grant preferential rights to powerful theatre circuits for all of the features released by a given distributor."

Likewise, Universal asks that the conclusion of law which finds the distributor defendants in violation of the Sherman act "by making franchises with their respective licensees" be changed to read: "by making franchises with circuits of theatres which unreasonably restrain the trade of competing independent theatres."

Company Motion

Supporting the suggested changes, the company's motion declares: "Universal submits that it ought to be permitted to make true franchises with all independent theatres. The issue in this case certainly had to do with the relationships between the defendant distributors and the major exhibition chains. Conceding for the purpose of argument that this issue might be expanded to include the relationships between the defendant distributors and the large independent circuits and even beyond this to include all independent circuits, it certainly cannot be expanded to include the relationships between non-integrated distributors such as Universal and single independent theatres. Indeed, it is plain that the object of the proceeding must have been to foster and protect these very relationships."

Edit 'Citizen Saint'

Filming of "Citizen Saint," biography of Mother Cabrini, has been completed at the RKO Pathe Studio, here, by producer Clyde Elliott. The film is being cut and edited, and will be ready for a world premiere in New York sometime in February.

E-L Expenditure

(*Continued from page* 1)

Joke, Son," in a world premiere at the Paramount Theatre in Austin, Tex., tomorrow night.

"Much planning and preparation have preceded this entrance into the industry as a full-fledged company," said Krim. "For more than a year, in association with J. Arthur Rank we have concentrated on the development of product, and distribution and exhibition facilities and personnel, with the aim of placing in worldwide distribution in 1947 a regular flow of product. We are ready as planned.

"We will expend as much or more on our future pictures," Krim added.

"Spare No Expense"

"Similarly we intend to spare no expense or effort to establish our advertising and exploitation at the highest levels in the industry," Krim said.

E-L distribution plans call for the establishment of 12 key city central field offices, each headed by a district sales representative, operating under the direction of Alfred W. Schwalberg.

Krim explained that a reciprocal releasing agreement is now in effect with the J. Arthur Rank Organization, which was represented in recent talks here by Teddy Carr, Rank's top distribution executive. The deal calls for Eagle-Lion to release annually a minimum of eight Rank pictures, with the Rank distribution outlets abroad handling all Eagle-Lion films. England, Eagle-Lion product will play both the Odeon and Gaumont circuits. In this connection, major openings of American-made Eagle-Lion films are scheduled for six to eight-week intervals in Rank outlets in England.

Inaugural Premiere

Starting off Eagle-Lion operations in this country with the world premiere of the company's first film, "It's a Joke, Son," in Austin, the premiere will be followed by top-promotion openings in other key spots of the Interstate Circuit, at the Aztec Theatre, San Antonio; Metropolitan, Houston; Majestic, Dallas; Hollywood, Fort Worth, and it has been booked into the entire multi-state circuit of Interstate by R. J. O'Donnell. The premiere is being handled on a "Hollywood premiere" basis, with E-L production chief Bryan Foy heading a contingent of Hollywood stars making personal appearances at the event. Will include June Lockhart, Andy Russell, Sheila Ryan, Tom Conway, Arturo de Cordova, Jane Darwell, Gale Storm and Benny Rubin, all of whom will be welcomed to the premiere by Texas governor-elect Beauford H. Jester and Austin's Mayor Thomas Miller.

Pre-set national tieups have been made by the company's exploitation staff, operating under the direction of Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation.

Mark Raymon Establishes E-L Kansas City Office

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 19.—Mark Raymon has set up offices as district representative of Eagle-Lion in the quarters of PRC, through which Eagle-Lion will be distributed.

Ramon, for 15 years with RKO Radio, has as his territory the Des Moines, Omaha, St. Louis and Kansas City exchange areas.

Short Subjects

"Pooch Parade"
(*Paramount*)
Interviews with 15 representatives from dogdom's world of 225 different breeds are featured in this subject, and the talking dogs prove they can hold their own with some of our top co. 61.ms in this "Speaking of An——s" short. Running time, 10 minutes.

"Moonlight Melodies"
(*Universal*)
Frankie Carle and his orchestra and vocalists Marjorie Hughes and Derry Falligant, with "The Starlighters", provide most of the music for this one. Songs featured are: "How Would You Feel," "Swinging Down the Lane," "In Love with Love," and "Warming Up." Running time, 16 minutes.

"Double Dribble"
(*Walt Disney-RKO Radio*)
In this Technicolor cartoon, two famous basketball teams meet for a championship match. Everything wild, zany and imaginative happens, with little Merithew winning the game after he unties the string of a player's shorts. Running time, seven minutes.

"Like Father—Like Son"
(*Paramount*)
This Grantland Rice "Sportlight" presents five American sport standouts who are following in the footsteps of their famous fathers. Teams represented are oarsmen, fancy-riding cowboys, underwater swimmers, skiing and bow and arrow marksmanship. Running time, 10 minutes.

"Ray McKinley And His Orchestra"
(*Columbia*)
In this "Thrills of Music" short, Ray McKinley and his boys start things off musically with "Hoodle Addle." Then come other tunes, including "Tabu" and "Comin' Out." Running time, 10 minutes.

"Community Sing"
(*Columbia*)
With Dick Leibert at the organ, the Song Spinners lend their voices to five numbers: "Surrender," "Five Minutes More," "My Fickle Eye," "Who Told You that Lie," and "There's No One But You." Running time, 10½ minutes.

"Bowling Fever"
(*RKO Radio*)
Bowling has grown to a sport of tremendous popularity. In this "Sportscope", Mrs. Catherine Fellmeth, women's all-event champion, instructs youthful novices, gradually leading them to a point of high efficiency. Other experts are introduced and perform with dazzling technique and deftness. Running time, eight minutes.

Grant Leaves Republic

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 19.—W. M. (Bill) Grant has resigned as manager of the local branch of Republic. Manager of the branch for four years, Grant will leave here for California next month.

New Theatres

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19.—Remodeling of three theatres, including the historic old Eagle Theatre of Sacramento, construction of a new house in Folsom and the purchase of a new showcase in Hughson by United California Theatres are prominent this week among activities in the theatre field.

Operation at the newly-completed house in Hughson, purchased by M. Naify of United California Theatres from John C. Sanders, has already begun. Sold for $75,000, the 800-seat house will be managed by Charles Hefley, who has moved over from the Fox Turlock.

Funds for remodeling of the old Eagle Theatre, a civic repertory house in Sacramento, are being solicited, with construction to get under way in February. Although a goal of $500,000 has been set, only $200,000 is being sought currently.

Renovation, including installation of new sound equipment, curtains and stage draperies, has been completed on Paul Glick's Canoga Theatre in Canoga Park, and the Elsinore Theatre, Elsinore, recently sold to E. G. Patterson, has undergone an entirely new decorative job.

Bessie A. Lanier has been granted a building permit to construct a $3,100 theatre in Folsom.

Plan 900-car Drive-in Theatre Near Seattle

SEATTLE, Jan. 19.—Acquisition of 13½ acres on the Desimone Gardens tract, Highway 99, south of this city, for the construction of a modern playhouse with a capacity of 900 automobiles, has been announced by John Danz, president of Sterling Theatres, and William R. Forman, operator of a theatre circuit in Oregon and Washington. Erection will begin as soon as regulations permit, they added.

Al-Dun Amusement, Georgia, Plans New Theatre in Lanett, Ala.

LANETT, Ala., Jan. 19.—Construction of a new 500-seat theatre in the main part of this city will begin soon, according to Sidney Laird, general manager of the Al-Dun Amusement Co. of Atlanta. L. J. Duncan is president of the company.

Platt Gets Lease of Ohio House For Year on Bid of $7,500

MT. VERNON, Ohio, Jan. 19.—With his $7,500 bid topping 12 entered, James C. Platt, city manager for Schine Theatrical Co., has been awarded the 1947 lease on the Memorial Theatre here by the Knox County commissioners. Commissioners said the lease went to Platt as an individual and not as a representative of the Schine circuit. Last year Union Theatrical Co., a Schine subsidiary, Cleveland, operated the house on a bid of $6,500 and half of the coal supply.

Associated Circuit Acquires Port Clinton Theatres

PORT CLINTON, Ohio, Jan. 19.—Associated Circuit of Cleveland, which is now building a new 1,200-seat theatre, scheduled to be completed in March, has acquired the local circuit operated by Popular Theatres and Amusement Co. Transfer of ownership became effective Jan. 1.

Rock Hill, S. C., to Get First Negro Theatre; To Cost $60,000

ROCK HILL, S. C., Jan. 19.—Construction of a $60,000 motion picture theatre for Negroes here "in the immediate future" has been announced by Ben Strozier, president of Rock Hill Theatres, Inc. Named the Lincoln Theatre, it will be this town's first Negro house and will have a seating capacity of 450.

Zoning Board Approves Permit For Berkshire Drive-in

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Jan. 19.—Approval for Berkshire County's first drive-in theatre, to be operated by Harry Lazarus, has been granted by the zoning board of appeals. In granting a zoning variation on the property, the board stipulated that only advertising connected with the theatre, which will accommodate 500 automobiles, will be permitted on the premises. It also requires that an employe or policeman must be on traffic duty during business hours.

Kaimann-Wehrenberg Circuit Adds on Its 23rd Theatre

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 19.—A building that once housed a Jewish synagogue has been converted into an ultra-modern, small neighborhood theatre, named the Plaza, by the Kaimann-Wehrenberg Circuit. It is the 23rd house in the circuit.

Modern 1,250-Seater in Ohio Awaits Ease in Construction

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Jan 19.—Awaiting the easing of conditions in the building industry to begin construction, Chakeres Theatres, with headquarters here, has announced that an ultra-modern 1,250-seat house, equipped for stage shows and television, will be built at St. Mary's Ohio.

Raise Realty Values

BURLINGTON, Vt., Jan. 19.—For the first time since 1926, real estate will jump in valuations here. City assessor R. L. Soule announces that real estate has been appraised for the next four years by his office and theatres are among the city's 6,000 taxpayers who were told that in general the valuation of property had been increased. The average amount of increase in valuation was not indicated but 99 per cent of the city's taxpayers receive the jump in appraisals.

New Denver Levy

DENVER, Jan. 19.—The city council, looking for new income sources, is tacking a $5 annual license fee on motion picture operators.

Carr Opens New Office

CLEVELAND, Jan. 19.—Wade M. Carr, district manager for Manley Popcorn Co., has opened a district office here, from where he will supervise Southern Ohio, in charge of Warren A. Miller, with headquarters in Cincinnati, and Western Pennsylvania, in charge of Charles V. Byers, with headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Oregon Firms Chartered

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 19.—Seattle Auto-View Theatres Corp., with Amy Seijas of Seattle listed as incorporator, has been chartered here. Washington National Co., Inc., also has been incorporated; George C. Kinnear and Associates, Seattle, are its incorporators.

Mexican Union Asks Admission Decrease

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 19.—Asserting that theatre prices are "exorbitant," the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, which includes exhibitor and distributor employes, has called upon the Senate and the municipal government to order a "substantial reduction" in admission charges.

With theatre admissions currently ranging from 85 cents to $1 for first-run houses, the workers maintain that a close examination of exhibitors' and distributors' books would disclose that prices could be reduced by 40 per cent.

Paramount Launches New Photo Service

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Paramount's studio, after months of development, has inaugurated its Carbro full-color photographic service to metropolitan newspapers throughout the country, with 48 prints going out at one time.

"Regarded in the engraving and printing fields as the 'Tiffany' of color processes," says Paramount, Carbro is exclusive with Paramount in the motion picture industry, the studio being the only one to own the special camera.

Films and Psychiatry

As part of the Motion Picture Association's motion picture appreciation program under Mrs. Marjory Dawson, a lecture on psychiatry and psychology in films will be given here today at the Preview Theatre by Dr. Lawrence K. Franke, director of the Carolyn Zachary Foundation. Newspaper and civic organization representatives are on the invitation list.

MacMurtrie Promoted

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—William MacMurtrie, who has been identified with radio since 1921, has been appointed general purchasing agent of Philco Corp., by William Balderston, executive vice-president. Raymond A. Boyce, former general purchasing agent and a member of the Philco board, has been promoted to director of purchases and will concentrate on over-all planning and general administrative work.
were incorporating attorneys.

New Production Firm

ALBANY, Jan. 19.—Cavalier Productions, Inc., of Los Angeles, has recorded a certificate for the establishment of a motion picture production business with offices in New York City. Robert S. Young is listed as president of the company, Kaplan, Livingston and Lewis, Los Angeles,

$2,294 for 'Best Years'

"The Best Years of Our Lives" grossed $2,294 on its opening day at the Colony Theatre, Miami, the Samuel Goldwyn office here reports. The theatre has advanced its prices for the run.

New Mexican Chief

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 19.—The municipal government announces the appointment of Fernando Gonzalez as chief of its amusements supervision office, which has jurisdiction over all theatres here.

Audience Research For Films in UK

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Expansion of Audience Research Institute, which checks audience reactions, to include establishment of its own polling staffs in England, and possibly in other European countries, has been discussed with studio heads by Dr. George Gallup, ARI head, who will leave for London in May to investigate possibilities personally.

In the past ARI has utilized a British poll organization's facilities, but the feeling is its own staff would be better equipped to sample public opinion regarding American films.

Gallup last night was host to thirty representatives of the Screen Publicists Guild, explaining ARI's attitude with respect to the importance of publicity men in the industry, which locally published reports had questioned. A three-hour session ended in a general understanding that cooperation between the ARI and studio publicity departments can benefit both.

Gallup left here last night by plane for New York.

Indiana Would Allow Local Taxation

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 19.—First bill proposed in 1947 session of the state legislature to draw the special attention of exhibitors would enable any city in the state to levy any tax it pleases, for revenue-raising purposes. Municipalities under the present law are limited almost entirely to a property tax for direct resources, although drawing a share of state revenues in many classifications.

The bill is to be accompanied by a resolution asking Congress to retire from several fields of taxation, including amusements. It is argued that these fields should be left to municipalities.

License Fees Raised

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 19.—The city has raised license fees for the three theatres here, according to Mayor Edwin L. Olander. New rate for the Calvin is $150 annually, instead of $60, while the Plaza will pay $60 instead of $50, and the Academy—municipally-owned theatre, which formerly was exempt from fees—will pay $90 a year.

Resist New Taxation

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—Stanley-Warner and Goldman Theaters are protesting an ordinance proposed in Pottstown which would impose additional taxes on their theaters there. The new bill covers a tax of five per cent of gross receipts, payable monthly, on all motion picture theaters. It will probably be fought in civil or equity courts on grounds of discrimination and illegality.

Jordan to Monogram

ATLANTA, Jan. 19.—Ben Jordan, formerly with Universal as sales representative and for the past five years sales representative for Warner Brothers, Atlanta, has resigned and will handle Tennessee for Monogram Southern Exchanges, replacing his brother, Harold, who has been transferred to Monogram's Charlotte branch, as manager.

Reviews

"I'll Be Yours"

(*Universal-International*)

THE good news here is that Deanna Durinb has reverted to singing for the screen. And that is a promotional point which is bound to pay big dividends. What is more, supplementing Miss Durbin's own marquee strength, this cinematic confection (and what a honey-dipped, cellophane-frilled bonbon it is) offers the name-power of Tom Drake, long to be remembered for his work in "The Green Years," William Bendix and Adolphe Menjou.

Speaking of names, that of Preston Sturges, who is credited with the screenplay, is one to be played up for all it is worth (and that's plenty) in promotional copy. Further credits: Felix Jackson produced, William A. Seiter directed, and Ferenc Molnar wrote the original comedy, which was translated and adapted by Jane Hinton.

But however impressive most of this roster may be, the picture, richly endowed with quality production values seldom shows itself as more than medium entertainment from comedy and love story standpoints. Its musical stature is somewhat greater. Recounted are the New York adventures of a sweet-natured career-seeking country girl (Miss Durbin) who, through the efforts of a good-hearted waiter (Bendix) is treated to a taste of high-society life which puts her within range of the clutches of a multimillionaire (Menjou). She wards off Menjou's advances by telling him she is married to a poor-but-honest young bachelor (Drake). Menjou, misinterpreting Miss Durbin's fib-inspired guilty demeanor as a sign that her "marriage" is unhappy, "gets rid" of Drake, an attorney, by putting him in a high-salaried law post in his firm. Bendix, obviously straining to wring laughs from largely laugh-barren lines, has a big order trying to keep the youngsters in love with each other, and protecting Miss Durbin from Menjou's designs. But all ends in smiles and embraces in a gorgeous nightclub which Menjou buys for Bendix. Walter Catlett, Franklin Pangborn and others round out the cast.

At intervals during the proceedings, the golden-voiced Miss Durbin renders "Granada," "It's Dream Time," and other vocal selections, aided by superb orchestral work chorus effects and polished stagings.

Running time, 93 minutes. General audience classification. January release.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Ginger"

(*Monogram*)

SENTIMENTALITY seeps from every foot of this picture, which relates the story of a dog and a boy, and the forces the boy must overcome before he and his charge prove themselves worthy of respect. Judged from its tone and the emphasis placed on Johnny Calkins, the boy, and Janet Burston, his tomboyish aide-de-camp, "Ginger" will have a special appeal to parents and children.

Johnny is taken to a small town by his uncle, Frank Albertson, an unsuccessful pugilist who has retired from the ring and has obtained a job as master of the town's dog pound. Dick Elliott, mayor of the town, seeks to buy the property adjoining the pound in order to build a park to be named for him, and so Albertson has some tough sledding, particularly since the object of his affections, Barbara Reed, gave him the job in the mayor's absence and because her mother runs the rooming house at which he and his nephew are staying, the house being part of the property which the mayor is conniving to have condemned. There are several difficult moments for Johnny, including a tear-stained scene in which his dog is slated for death, before Ginger proves him a hero for rescuing the mayor's son, a part played by Gene Collins.

Produced by Lindsley Parsons, the film was directed and the script written by Oliver Drake from a story by Donald C. McKean. Ace Herman was associate producer.

Running time, 57 minutes. General audience classification. IRVING KAPLAN

"Song of the Sierras"

(*Monogram*)

JIMMY WAKELY'S tuneful contributions succeed in lifting somewhat this otherwise usual Western about how the cowboy succeeds in saving the old homestead. Lee "Lasses" White, his aide-de-camp, carries the burdensome comedy, feeble though it appears.

Wakely, in town to sell some horses, discovers that the buyer, Iris Clive, is manipulating a mortgage to take over a dude ranch owned by Budd Buster. Challenged on the breed of his horses, Wakely agrees to race his horses against Miss Clive's for a U. S. Cavalry contract, and there is a lot of dirty work afoot before he gets the evidence to put Miss Clive and her subordinates in the sheriff's custody for murder.

Also in the cast are Jack Baxley, Jean Carlin and Zon Murray. Oliver Drake produced, directed and wrote the story; Elmer Clifton wrote the screenplay.

Running time, 55 minutes. General audience classification. I. K.

Youngquists Buy One

HARTFORD, Jan. 19.—New Astor Theatre Corp. of East Hartford, a new corporation, has taken over the Astor Theatre, there, from Amalgamated Theatres. Principals are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Youngquist. Mrs. Youngquist has taken over as manager.

Cleveland Aids 'Dimes'

CLEVELAND, Jan. 19.—Cleveland independent theatre owners have agreed to take up audience collections during the March of Dimes drive, M. B. Horwitz and John D. Kalafat, co-chairmen of the theatre division announce. Affiliated theatre policy has not been stated.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 19

IN a general re-alignment of production assignments, Sidney Picker will take over all pictures formerly assigned to Armard Schaefer, who will leave Republic early in February. Gordon Kay and Mel Tucker have been promoted to the status of associate producers, Kay to make a series of straight Westerns which Phil Ford will direct, and Tucker to supervise a series of musical Westerns starring Monte Hale. . . . Gottfried Reinhardt has been signed to a new long-term producer contract by M-G-M.

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Operators of the Hitching Post Theatre in Beverly Hills plan to change the new theatre's all-Western policy by introducing a full-hour bill of news and special subjects on weekdays only. Residents of the neighborhood are currently being polled on their reaction to the proposed change. . . . The role of the composer Tchaikovsky in Allied Artists' "Tragic Symphony," soon to go before cameras at Monogram, will be enacted by Swedish star Frank Sundstrom.

•

Producer George Haight and scenarist George Fisher, who worked together on "Lady in the Lake," have been assigned by M-G-M to a similar suspense film: "Saigon Singer," based on Van Wyck Mason's latest novel. . . . Newcomer Michael North has been signed to a long-term contract by Michael Curtiz Productions, and is set for the romantic lead opposite Joan Caulfield in "The Unsuspected." . . . Toni Reynolds, former Powers model, has been signed by Walter Wanger to a long-term contract.

•

Walter Mayo will function as production manager for Seymour Nebenzal's "Atlantis," in which Maria Montez and Jean Pierre Aumont are to costar. . . . Virginia Field has been signed for a top role in "Repeat Performance" at Eagle-Lion.

•

Due to the favorable reception accorded M-G-M's Technicolor short, "The Cat Concerto," Fred C. Quimby plans to produce a series of similar cartoons featuring musical masterpieces. The first will present Johann Strauss' "Tales from the Vienna Woods." . . . Ray Nazarro, according to word received at Columbia, has arrived safely in Shanghai, where he will direct the Chinese sequences for the Kennedy-Buchman production, "Assigned to Treasury." . . . The second Thalia production starring Edward G. Robinson will be "I Heard Them Sing." Sol Lesser has just engaged Paul Trivers to write the screen treatment of Ferdinand Reyher's story.

•

Janet Martin has been assigned the starring role in Republic's forthcoming melodrama, "The Finger Woman," which George Blair will direct. . . . Helen Freeman has been assigned a top spot in "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," now shooting at 20th Century-Fox. . . . Comedian Billy Green has been engaged by Warners for the role of a steamboat captain in "My Wild Irish Rose."

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 14 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1947 TEN CENTS

High Court to Hear Schine Case Appeal

Acts After NY Decree Is Cited on Divestiture

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The U. S. Supreme Court will hear Schine Chain Theatres' appeal from the partial divestiture verdict handed down by Judge John Knight in Buffalo Federal District Court, the high tribunal ruled today, vacating its Dec. 16 judgment which denied the original Schine petitions and granting a new petition filed on Jan. 9 by Willard S. McKay, counsel for the circuit.

The court, in its December judgment, dismissed two Schine petitions —one on the ground that it was filed before the Buffalo verdict became

(Continued on page 7)

Allied Will Discuss Film Sales Policies

Charting a course of further action in line with a protest adopted by Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey, against sales policies of film companies will be among the subjects to be considered by the board of National Allied when it convenes in Washington on Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

Criticism of sales policies, which expressed alarm at the manner in

(Continued on page 7)

Minnesota Governor Calls for New Tax

Minneapolis, Jan. 20.—Luther Youngdahl, Minnesota's new governor, has reiterated his last week's stand that an increased biennial state budget (1947-49) of $14,000,000 could be met largely through levying "luxury taxes"—with special emphasis on liquor taxes, but with reference to admission taxes.

Reminded that the Federal Government was unlikely to relinquish these taxes to any great extent soon, Youngdahl said, "Even so, I still believe the additional luxury taxes should be levied by the state."

IATSE to Stand Fast On Strike Issue Before AFL Heads

With the Screen Actors Guild and possibly all branches of the AAAA demanding that action to end the jurisdictional strike in Hollywood studios be taken by the American Federation of Labor executive council at its meeting in Miami on Jan. 29, the IATSE stands ready to answer any council questions with regard to its side of the dispute, Richard F. Walsh, "IA" president, said here yesterday on the eve of his departure today for Seattle, where the "IA" executive board will open a mid-winter session on Jan. 27.

Noting that the Seattle meeting will prevent his personal appearance in Miami, Walsh declared his organization will, in any event, maintain its

(Continued on page 7)

Cleric Warns on Indecent Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20. — Reverend Father Thomas J. McCarthy, editor of "The Tidings," commented editorially in the current edition in part as follows:

"Hollywood is at the whipping post again and it cannot say that it was not warned. Something is wrong with an industry which came perilously close to ruining itself 14 or 15 years ago and which did not learn a lesson from that experience.

"Even the most hardened motion

(Continued on page 7)

AMPP Headquarters Picketed by CSU

Hollywood, Jan. 20. — Following a Conference of Studio Unions mass meeting here last night, a picket line was established at headquarters of the Association of Motion Picture Producers by CSU strikers this morning.

Herb Sorrell, CSU leader, charged at last night's meeting that Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, refused to confer with him on the strike during Johnston's visit here.

Maas Report To MPEA

Foreign distribution managers of member companies of the Motion Picture Export Association will convene here tomorrow afternoon at the offices of the Motion Picture Association to hear a report of the three-month survey of the European situation made by Irving Maas, MPEA vice-president and general manager. In an interview reported in yesterday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Maas, who returned to New York last Friday aboard the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*, sketched his impressions of the trip which took him to Holland, Germany, Austria Czechoslovakia and other countries chartered for MPEA activities.

Pledging that MPEA would judiciously select American product for

(Continued on page 6)

2 Anti-Trust Suits Ask $2,650,000 in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Two separate anti-trust suits totaling $2,650,000 triple damages were filed here today by the Middle States Corp. on behalf of the Minnesota Theatre in Minneapolis, together with the Riverside Operating Co. of Milwaukee on behalf of the Riverside Theatre there, and naming as defendants all major distributors and their subsidiaries.

In both suits jury trials were requested. Judge Michael Ligo, who has supported the Jackson Park in all respects to date, was handed the case of the Minnesota Theatre. Judge Philip L. Sullivan, who is handling the Piccadilly Theatre triple damage anti-trust suit, was given the Milwaukee Theatre case.

The Minnesota case, in addition to all major distributors, also named as defendant the Minnesota Amusement Co. Based on alleged damages of $250,000 suffered from 1940 until the present, triple damages asked is $750,000, with the total amount set at $900,000. The latter figure includes $150,000 as lawyers' fees.

Both the Milwaukee and Minnesota cases cited as precedents the New York decree of December 31 and the Jackson Park case, which has resulted in a U. S. Supreme Court victory. In the Minnesota case the plaintiff said it operated the Minnesota Theatre in 1940-41. Middle States charged that the major distributors and big circuits squeezed the theatre so that it was unable to obtain first-

(Continued on page 6)

MPTO Warned On Lawsuit Era for Films

Levy Sees Arbitration End as Major Casualty

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 20.—Continuance of an industry arbitration system and better understanding among all branches of the industry will be essential if endless litigation is to be avoided when the New York court decree becomes effective, Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, told a group of 300 at today's meeting of the MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois in the Jefferson Hotel here.

Although citing the dangers of countless law suits in the wake of the decree and declaring that "independent exhibitors have been badly

(Continued on page 6)

Expect MP Forum Decision Today

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 20.—A decision on whether steps will be taken now to launch a Motion Picture Forum to help iron out industry disputes or whether the movement will be deferred until after final disposition of the New York anti-trust suit is expected to be made at a meeting in the Hotel Jefferson here tomorrow of MPTOA state and regional unit

(Continued on page 7)

Universal to Appeal, Alone if Necessary

Universal will carry the industry anti-trust suit decision to the U. S. Supreme Court, even if no other party does, according to Thomas Turner Cooke, who took over as special counsel for "U" prior to arguments on the final decree in Federal District Court here last October.

At that time, Cooke contended that

(Continued on page 7)

In This Issue

"It's a Joke, Son," is reviewed on page 7.

Personal Mention

ROBERT BENJAMIN, president of the J. Arthur Rank Organization here, will leave Hollywood tomorrow by plane for Dallas, from where he will depart for New York on Friday.

•

JOE INGBER, Brandt Theatres representative, was married here on Sunday and is on a honeymoon trip with his bride.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, is due back in New York from Miami today.

•

HERMAN ROBBINS, president of National Screen Service, has returned to New York from Miami.

•

ARTHUR M. LOEW, head of Loew's International, has returned here from the Coast.

Fine, Imprison Three In Print Theft Case

Three of five defendants named in an indictment arising from the FBI's arrests of last April in the matter of the stolen 16mm. prints, have been sentenced by U. S. District Judge Robert Inch, in Federal Court for the Eastern district of New York.

Defendants Frank Raymond Tiriolo, George John Sinisgalli and Nicholas Peter Peruso had each pleaded guilty last December to a charge of taking from the Army Signal Corp Photographic Center, Long Island City, a print of "Cinderella Jones." Judge Inch sentenced each defendant to 30 days in jail and fined each $100.

Sentencing of defendants Abe Robert Goldstein and Melvin Maurice Baker, who also pleaded guilty to the same indictment, was adjourned to Feb. 7.

Legion Classifies 4 Additional Pictures

Paramount's "Ladies' Man," Columbia's "Mr. District Attorney," and 20th Century-Fox's "Strange Journey" have been classified A-II by the National Legion of Decency.

Warner's "The Man I Love" was placed in Class B.

Dinner for '5th Avenue'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20.—A dinner will be given at the Bel-Air Hotel by Roy Del Ruth Productions on the night of Jan. 30 in connection with the first showing of Roy Del Ruth's initial production for Allied Artists, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue." Producer-director Del Ruth has launched preparations on his next production for Allied, "Mr. Gideon."

Mary Astor's Mother Dies

ENCINO, Cal., Jan. 20.—Mrs. Helen Langhanke, mother of Mary Astor, film actress, died at the home of her daughter Saturday after an illness of eight months. Mrs. Langhanke's husband died nearly four years ago.

Minnesota Elevates Charles Winchell

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 20.—Charles W. Winchell, advertising director of Minnesota Amusement Co., has been appointed assistant to Harry B. French, new president and general manager. Everett E. Seibel, assistant advertising manager, was promoted to Winchell's former position in the shift that followed appointment of French to succeed the retiring John J. Friedl.

Also advanced were Don Alexander, member of the advertising staff, to assistant advertising manager, and Ray Niles to district manager of Southern Minnesota theatres.

Winchell became associated with theatres now operated by the company when he joined the advertising staff of Finkelstein and Reuben in 1920. Seibel joined the same staff in 1927. He has been Winchell's assistant for the last four years. Alexander, who began as an usher in 1918, has held various advertising jobs and for the last 15 years has been assigned to Minneapolis theatres. Niles has been affiliated with the company since 1923 as a theatre manager.

Monogram on Sixth Foreign Subsidiary

Monogram-International has established its sixth subsidiary company abroad with the setting up of Monogram Pictures of Trinidad, Inc., at Port of Spain, president Norton V. Ritchey announced at the weekend. John B. Cron, who has been appointed general manager of the new outlet, left New York at the weekend for Trinidad.

The Trinidad office, Ritchey said, will handle distribution in the British West Indies and the Guianas. First Monogram pictures slated for release in those areas are "Fear," "The Missing Lady" and "Alaska."

Linet, Emerling and DeBra Will Lecture

The New School for Social Research, here, has set a series of five lectures on "Motion Picture and Feature Publicity," by Henry A. Linet, Eastern advertising manager of Universal Pictures, on Fridays, beginning Feb. 7. Discussion will center on special media, techniques and desired results. Guest lecturers will include Arthur De Bra of the Motion Picture Association, and Ernest Emerling, director of advertising-publicity for Loew's Theatres.

Para. Cleveland Meet

CLEVELAND, Jan. 20.—Earl Sweigert, Paramount Eastern division sales manager, and Harry Goldstein, district manager, will hold a meeting here this week of branch managers Saul Frified, Cleveland; A. C. Benson, Cincinnati, and H. E. Stuckey, Detroit.

'Duel' Repeats $40,000

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20.—For the third straight week David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" earned $40,000 or better in seven days at the Vogue and Fairfax Theatres here.

Curl Heads Dayton Exhibitors' Group

DAYTON, O., Jan. 20.—James M. Curl, manager of the neighborhood Salem Theatre, was elected president of the recently-organized Dayton Theatre Owners association at a meeting here. Oscar Baker of the Davue was named vice-president and James Herb, of the Semmelroth circuit, secretary-treasurer. Directors are William Keys, owner of the Victory; William Reisinger, Loew's; "Goody" Sable, Keith's; Fred Krim, of the Airline and Mecca Theatres, Roy Wells, St. Paul, and Herbert Oakes of the Drive-In. Baker was also chosen chairman of an advertising committee, serving on which will be Robert Partlow, "Shick" Davidson, Keyes and Reisinger. Robert Tucker of the Dale Theatre was named publicity director.

The organization, which voted 100 per cent cooperation in the March of Dimes drive, will hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

CSA Decree Meeting Set for Feb. 10

ATLANTA, Jan. 20.—Date of the St. Augustine, Fla., meeting of the Confederacy of Southern Associations for discussion of the New York Federal Court decree has been set for Feb. 10 by Mack Jackson, CSA president.

Robert T. Barton, Jr., of Richmond and George B. Brooks of New York, attorneys for CSA, will report to the meeting on the decree and a decision will be made whether to appeal from the New York court's denial of CSA's petition to intervene in the anti-trust suit in order to pave the way for an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Flexer Will Start New National Circuit

MEMPHIS, Jan. 20.—City managers of Flexer Theatres, Inc., at a meeting in Memphis at the weekend and discussed new plans for a nationwide circuit. Dave Flexer presided.

Managers attending included: Joe Simon, Memphis; Paul Flexer, Watertown, Tenn.; Nathan Flexer, Waverly, Tenn.; Mrs. William F. Aiken, Sardis, Miss.; Albert Hamilton, New Albany, Miss.; Eugene Boggs, Amory, Miss.; Marvin Morris, Memphis.

New B'nai B'rith Lodge

DETROIT, Jan. 20.—The newly-formed Cinema Lodge of the B'nai B'rith received its inauguration today, as the 150 initial members held a dinner at the Variety Club in the Tuller Hotel. Master-of-ceremonies is Oscar Adelman of the Lou Cohen Theatre Circuit. Harry Gilbert is acting club secretary and Paul Broder, Broder Theatres, is treasurer.

Lewis, McCarey Confer

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20.—Sinclair Lewis has checked in here for a series of conferences with producer-director Leo McCarey regarding the story of "Adam and Eve," which Lewis will write and which McCarey will make for Rainbow Productions.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
With 13 BIG STARS
in Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
WALT DISNEY'S SONG OF THE SOUTH
IN TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE
ON SCREEN 'The JOLSON STORY' In TECHNICOLOR Larry PARKS Evelyn KEYES
IN PERSON THELMA CARPENTER LEONARD SUES WALTON & O'ROURKE DEAN MARTIN & JERRY LEWIS

Loretta Young · David Niven
in HAL WALLIS production
"The Perfect Marriage"
A Paramount Picture
in Person THE MILLS BROS. OLGA SAN JUAN TIM HERBERT · ELLIOT LAWRENCE And His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"Tender...brimming with human warmth" —WALTER WINCHELL
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 50th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

"MURDER IN REVERSE"
(A Four Continents Release)
"Ingenious . . . Stirring . . . Superb Performances."
Alton Cook, N. Y. World Telegram
RIALTO THEATER
42nd Street and Broadway

'Sinbad' Opens tomorrow

"Sinbad the Sailor," RKO Radio, will have its world premiere at the RKO Palace Theatre here tomorrow.

'Boomerang' Tradeshow

William J. Kupper, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, has set a "Boomerang" tradeshow for all exchange centers on Jan. 24.

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Jester and 'Joke' Take Texas Today

San Antonio, Jan. 20.—Eagle-Lion's initial release, "It's a Joke, Son," starring Kenny Delmar, will have its world premiere at the Paramount, Austin, tomorrow as part of the ceremonies marking the inauguration of Gov.-Elect Beauford Jester.

Hollywood will be represented by Byron Foy, vice-president in charge of production for the company, and a group including June Lockhart, Guy Kibbee, Una Merkel, Kenneth Farrell, Jane Darwell, Sheila Ryan, Andy Russell, Peggy Ryan, Lois Andrews and Audrey Totter.

Benny Rubin, dialogue director, will herald the opening over the Interstate Circuit's "Showtime" radio program. The new governor and Mexican government attaches are expected to attend. Other Klieg light premieres are slated for San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Bill to Repeal 3% Ohio Admission Tax

Columbus, O., Jan. 20.—A bill to repeal the state's three per cent admission tax and to permit cities to levy excise taxes has been introduced in the Ohio legislature by Rep. George Marshall, the first of a series of similar tax bills to be sponsored by members of the Franklin county delegation to the legislature.

The present state tax yields about $2,900,000 annually. It is probable that city levies in this field will be set at more than three per cent. Charles Egger, *Columbus Citizen* political writer, recently suggested that Columbus might enact a tax of from eight to 10 per cent to balance the city's budget.

N. Y. News Editorial Boosts Liberty Film

Liberty Pictures' "It's a Wonderful Life" was described as a "wonderful show" in an editorial in Saturday's New York *Daily News,* which rarely commends a picture on its editorial page.

"We've seldom seen such a moving and inspiring, entertaining and exciting picture as this one," the editorial declares while commending James Stewart, Frank Capra, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore "and the whole cast." "Our advice to the customers is not to miss this picture," the editorial concludes.

H. J. Wessel Honored

Cincinnati, Jan. 20.—H. J. (Pop) Wessel, owner of the Film Service Co., film truckers, voted the "Swell Guy of 1946" by the Cincinnati Variety Club, Tent No. 3, was tonight presented with the Mark Hellinger "Variety Club Swell Guy" award on the stage of Keith's Theatre, between showings of the Universal film of that name.

Kiepura in Mexico

Mexico City, Jan. 20.—Negotiations are being conducted with various Mexican producers by Jan Kiepura and his wife, Martha Eggerth, who are here on a vacation, for the making of a picture in English and Spanish.

Hazen to Confer on Future Wallis Plans

Joseph Hazen, president of Hal Wallis Productions is in Hollywood, where he will spend two or three weeks viewing new films and working out campaigns on the product and will determine, in conferences with Wallis, whether the next scheduled production, "Be Still My Love," shall be started this month or deferred. Both executives are booked to leave New York on April 9 for England, where the company will begin filming of a picture tentatively entitled "So Evil My Love."

On the Coast, Hazen will see "Desert Fury," which is in rough cut, and "I Walk Alone," which is before the cameras. He will also discuss with Wallis a tentative deal for extension of the company's Paramount releasing contract, which will expire after the delivery of four more films.

Goldman Buys Radio To Build New 1st-Run

Philadelphia, Jan. 20.—William Goldman, president of Goldman Theatres, Inc., has purchased radio station WDAS, subject to approval of the FCC. As soon as building restrictions are lifted new studios and offices will be built on the present site of the 10-story Keith Theatre office building on Chestnut Street. The present Keith structure will be demolished to make room for both the station and a new 2,500-seat first-run house which will replace the present Keith playhouse.

In addition to the combination radio and theatre facilities the proposed building will also incorporate television studios. Goldman also stated that a new site is being selected to provide for second-run pictures when Keith's becomes a first-run.

Weiner Named Head Of SRO Sales Unit

Minneapolis, Jan. 20.—Charles Weiner of the local United Artists sales staff, has been appointed branch manager here for the Selznick Releasing Organization. In a staff shift to replace Weiner, Ralph Cramblet, UA branch manager, has named Clyde Cutter to the city sales post vacated by Weiner. Johnny Fritchie has been placed in Cutter's position as office manager and head booker.

Bob Smith, son of the late Bob Smith, longtime manager of the Milwaukee Warner branch, has been added to the UA sales force, as a replacement for Frank Eisenberg, who has transferred to the Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota area.

Industry, Union Men Shea Circuit Guests

Cleveland, Jan. 20.—Industry and union representatives and tradespeople with whom the Shea circuit does business have been invited by president E. C. Grainger to attend a banquet at the Carter Hotel here tonight, winding up the company's two-day managers' meeting.

New York executives, besides Grainger, present at the sessions are: A. J. Kearney, George Goett, W. E. Barry, C. Lawler and T. E., John A. and M. A. Shea. Among others in attendance are: John Cunliffe, president of the Chemical Bank and Trust Co.; Michael Calahan, insurance broker, and Bert Sanford of Altec Lansing Corp.

IATSE to Extend 'Collarite' Activity

With the recent integration of the Front Office Exchange Local, F-51, of New York, into Local No. H-63 of the IATSE, the AFL union has indicated an extension of organizational activities among "white collar" and professional employes in the film industry. Included among office workers represented by Local H-63 are those in the home offices of Warner Bros. and Universal and in the exchanges of Warner, Paramount, RKO Radio, Universal and Republic.

Jim Rogers, who has been active in the radio, music and theatrical fields, was recently appointed business representative and organizer on the staff of Local H-63. He will assist Russell Moss, executive vice-president and business manager.

Reade Considering New Theatre, Hotel

Walter Reade interests are negotiating for purchase of the Republic Theatre here, together with surrounding properties, and may erect a large hotel containing a theatre on that Broadway site, according to New York film and financial circles.

Management of the property is now in the hands of City Investing Co., with which Reade is said to have been negotiating. The theatre at present is under lease to the Brandt interests, who are understood to hold it on a month-to-month basis.

Gruenberg Conducts 'Depinet' Meet Here

Harry Michalson, Nat Levy, Frank Drumm, Harry Gittleson, Sid Kremer, M. G. Poller and Jack Level represented the RKO Radio home office at a meeting of the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive" held in the New York exchange yesterday. Len S. Gruenberg, drive captain, presided at the meeting, which is one of a series he is conducting throughout the country.

Charles Boasberg, Metropolitan district manager, and Phil Hodes, New York exchange manager, were present, together with Carl Peppercorn, the latter's assistant; office manager Herman Silverman, and salesmen John Dacey, Lou Kutinsky, Ed Carroll, Harry Zeitels and Charles Penser.

Yonkers Owners Gird For Anti-Tax Fight

The Yonkers Motion Picture Theatres Committee has advanced a united plan of action in opposition to a proposed Yonkers theatre admission tax, the committee deciding to fully inform its patrons that the burden of the tax will fall directly upon them, in addition to the existing Federal 20 per cent admission tax.

Samuel Orson of the Kent Theatre has been elected chairman. He said, "If the City Council imposes this tax, Yonkers will be paying a total admission tax ranging from 29 per cent to 43 per cent. This is a discriminatory levy which singles out theatre patrons for special class taxation."

Glaubinger to RKO

Cincnnati, Jan. 20.—A. Glaubinger, formerly with the Columbia branch in Detroit, has joined RKO-Radio here as city salesman.

RKO Executives to Baltimore Opening

RKO Radio and Liberty Films executives from here will attend the opening of I. Rappaport's new Town Theatre, Baltimore, tonight. An invitation showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" will be given, with a regular run of the film to start tomorrow.

RKO will be represented by Ned E. Depinet, executive vice-president; Robert Mochrie, vice-president and general sales manager; Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager; Walter E. Branson and Nat Levy, Western and Eastern division sales managers, respectively; S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity, and Terry Turner, exploitation manager. Sol Schwartz, vice-president of RKO theatres, also plans to attend, as will R. J. Folliard, RKO Radio Eastern district manager and Joseph B. Brecheen, Washington exchange manager.

The Liberty Films contingent will be headed by Frank Capra and James Stewart, producer-director and star, respectively, of the film, and Lou Smith, advertising-publicity director, and Mort Nathanson, Eastern advertising-publicity manager. Walt Disney Productions will be represented by Charles Levy, Eastern publicity director.

350 Attend Variety Dinner at Albany

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 20.—A capacity gathering of 350 participated in the Variety Club community-wide dinner tonight at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel for James ("Ripp") Collins, new manager of the San Diego Pacific Coast League club and for five years player-manager of the Albany Eastern League team. Collins is a local Variety Club member. Speakers included: Arthur Mann, his executive assistant; Branch Rickey of Brooklyn; William Stanley Sims ("Dr. Humor"); Thomas Richardson, Eastern League president; Mayor Erastus Corning, also a Variety member, and the mayors of Troy, Watervliet, Rensselaer and Menands.

Ferguson to Chicago On 'Yearling' Plans

Chicago, Jan. 20.—Plans for a campaign for the undated Midwestern premiere of M-G-M's "The Yearling" will be discussed here Wednesday by William R. Ferguson, director of exploitation, with five of his field men and William K. Hollander, advertising head of the B. and K. circuit. Ferguson will meet William Bishop and William Green, Chicago exploiteers for M-G-M; Louis Orlove, Milwaukee; J. Watson, Cincinnati; Hal Marshall, Indianapolis, and Hollander.

On Thursday, the picture will have its Eastern premiere at the New York Music Hall.

Belgian Award to WB

For the second year, the "Grand Prix" of Belgium, presented by film journalists of that country to the producers of the best American picture, has been awarded to Warners for "Arsenic and Old Lace." The statuette will be presented shortly in Paris to Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production. Ingrid Bergman was voted the best actress of the year for her performances in Warners' "Saratoga Trunk" and "Casablanca."

THE NATION'S BEST NEWSPAPE

The New York Times

Editorial
Dec. 11, 1946

"Occasionally there comes from Hollywood a picture which catches some aspect of life in a vivid and tangible relation to normal experience, which sets up a group of fictional characters who resemble persons living or dead and which makes of these juxtapositions a drama of dimensions and power. Such a film is the current Samuel Goldwyn production, 'The Best Years of Our Lives.'

"The homecoming problems of war veterans have been pretty well run through by now—the physical and spiritual readjustments, the social levelings and the heartaches of the maimed. Most everyone in the country has known something of what it has been like to absorb a large citizen army (and navy and air force) back into civil life, to take up a normal way of living after three and a half abnormal years of war. We have known—some more markedly than others—the joy and shyness that reunions have provoked, the bitterness of anti-climax, the estrangements threatened by war's raw scars. This has been a vast national experience. This has been a poignant drama of real life.

"And this is the drama which is captured in 'The Best Years of Our Lives'—a title, incidentally, which has merit for its subtly ironic overtones, This is the drama which, for many who have been most involved in it, is just now emerging in patterns that can be recognized and grasped. For the nature of such experience is generally difficult and vague until it is clarified by hindsight. And that is what this excellent film provides. By observing the varied readjustments of three veterans returned from the war—their typical joys and bewilderments in relations with their loved ones and their friends, with society and, significantly, with each other—it throws into penetrating relief the stresses and strains of a drama which is still, as it were, in its third act. And that is immediately important.

IT IS ENRICHING.

As a matter of fact, it's art."

SAMUE

The BEST Yea

MYRNA LOY • FREDRIC MARCH • DANA ANDREWS •

Directed by WILLIAM WYLER • Screenplay by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD

S ARE GIVING IT THEIR BEST...

and PLENTY ENRICHING AT THE BOX-OFFICE, TOO!

8TH Week at Astor, N.Y. New All-Time Record!

MARCH OF DIMES MOTION PICTURE DRIVE
JANUARY 24th-30th

GOLDWYN'S

s of Our Lives

TERESA WRIGHT • VIRGINIA MAYO • HOAGY CARMICHAEL

From a Novel by MacKINLAY KANTOR • Director of Photography GREGG TOLAND

Released by
RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

MPTO Warned

(*Continued from page* 1)

bruised" by it, Levy asked his audience to have confidence in the ultimate solutions of the newly created problems and in the American judicial system which, he assured his listeners, will be in a position to correct hardships through its retention of jurisdiction in the New York case.

While urging exhibitors to take a realistic, rather than a pessimistic view of the decree, Levy said the days of restricted competition in the industry are over, regardless of Supreme Court action on any appeals that may be taken.

He named six gains for independent exhibitors under the decree but pointed out that while some of them may be of advantage to some theatres, they will be disadvantageous to others. Points mentioned were: elimination of compulsory auction selling; guaranty of some run; prohibition of price fixing; fixing upon the distributor the responsibility for fair clearances; definition of a competitive area, and the freezing of defendants' theatre holdings.

Revision Predicted

Levy asserted that if the burden of proving clearance to be legal is left to distributors it "will ultimately call for a revision of the entire distributor clearance approach."

Among the decree's disadvantages, Levy mentioned the "specter of Government control of the industry," vagueness and uncertainties in the competitive bidding procedure; freedom of distributors to engage in auction and competitive bidding procedures, and the "avalanche of litigation and strife" which the decree invites.

"One of the great tragedies of industry history," he said, "is the discarding by the court of industry arbitration. It means litigation, litigation and more litigation. When the proper time comes you will be asked to bend all efforts toward the creation of a system of industry arbitration."

Maas Report to MPEA

(*Continued from page* 1)

export with an eye to offering a "fair sampling of the American picture and an honest reflection of American life," Maas declared that Europe, emerging from its grim war experiences, displays a surprising receptivity to American war films. While emphasizing that the demand is for escapist screen fare, he pointed out that three out of eight films, which were being shown in Holland at the time of his departure from the Continent, were on war themes. In Czechoslovakia, he continued, where U. S. pictures have always been very popular, theatre patrons are standing on line and a "black market" in admission tickets has sprung up.

Responding to recent criticisms of American product, Maas insisted that official opinions conveyed to him "in a friendly, advisory manner, ask us to select pictures for export very carefully and to exclude pictures which would give a false impression of American life," and, also, that "we don't flood the market."

"American films are wanted everywhere," he said. "They have recaptured their pre-war prestige and are the most popular films, except in countries like Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, where local product attracts strong support."

Organized last May to arrange foreign exhibition of American product, in countries where strong state monopolies are fostered, the MPEA obtains licenses for films selected by U. S. distributors, determining rental policies according to local conditions. As an example of the type of problems encountered, Maas said, four political parties in Hungary dominate the theatre situation through their sponsorshop of licenses, under government direction. In Yugoslavia, he added, authorities have proved themselves uncooperative in the face of MPEA protests over the exhibition of unlicensed American films, and in Holland a type of "quota restriction" regulates playing time for American films to 28 weeks annually.

Limitations of this kind are unnecessary, Maas declared, because on the open market American films "would rise to their own level, probably getting about 65 per cent of the playing time."

He noted that British product is in a strong competitive position in the territory within his purview, having established their positions in some countries before the MPEA entered upon the scene and also because of improved product. There has not been any noticeable rebirth of French product in the area, he observed, but Russia maintains a strong position.

M-G-M Will Cooperate On M.P. Forum: Richey

Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M exhibitor relations director, pledged to the meeting the cooperation of his company toward fulfillment of the Motion Picture Forum idea advanced some time ago by Fred Wehrenberg, president of both the local group and its parent organization, the MPTOA.

"At a time when all indications point to court-made rules," Richey said, "it is refreshing to know that many theatre owners are giving consideration to the feasibility of a frank round table discussion of alleged industry ailments. We pledge you our cooperation that we may all face the future of a great industry unafraid."

Referring to the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, Richey said: "I cannot share the optimism of those who take refuge in the statement that 'the Supreme Court will straighten it out.' I am convinced a better way is to turn the white light of analysis on many of the half truths and imaginary ailments we hear so much about."

Wehrenberg Reelected

The local MPTO refused to accept the resignation of Wehrenberg, who offered to step down from his post here in order to devote full time to the national organization. Instead, three executive vice-presidents were elected to aid him. They are: Carson and Rodgers, Cairo, Ill.; Clarence Kaimann, St. Louis, and L. A. Mercier, Fredericktown, Ill.

Kaimann was named as secretary; Joe Ansell, St. Louis, treasurer, and Walter Thimming, St. Louis, sergeant-at-arms. Directors are: Harry E. Miller, William A. Collins, Charles Weeks, Eddie Rosecan, Rex Barret, Fred Scutter, Herman Tanner, Robert E. Cluster, Sam Pirtle, George Kerastoes, Tommy James, Maurice Davis, Henry Holloway, Orville Crouch and Al Rosecan.

Film Executives Are Here from England

Sparseness of studio space in England and the high level of production costs, which is to be a subject for discussion among Paramount home office executives, are key factors in Paramount production plans in England, according to Frank Farley, production executive of the company's British office, who has arrived here from England. Also among recent arrivals from abroad are James E. Perkins, Paramount, Ltd., managing director, and George Archibald, managing director of J. Arthur Rank's Independent Producers, Ltd.

Disclosing that operation of Paramount's talent and story office abroad during the war has benefited the company because its only problem, upon resumption of activities, was one of enlargement, Farley indicated that there is a paucity of properties and talent in Europe today. Noting a similarity to the current American condition in novels and plays, he averred:

"We will probably have to wait a little while for the war experiences to percolate." Farley said he would remain in New York for a week before going to the Coast. He expects to return to London Feb. 20. Perkins also plans to return to England next month after discussions with studio executives in Hollywood.

Archibald said the primary purpose of his visit is to do some field work in checking on the reception accorded British films by American theatregoers.

Discussing 1947 schedules of Independent Producers in the Rank unit, Archibald said each unit is responsible for two films a year, with budgets ranging above $400,000, but that they also engage in "sponsor" productions, a source of developing creative talent as well as of increased output. The four participating companies in Independent Producers are: Archer, Individual, Cineguild and Wessex.

2 Anti-Trust Suits

(*Continued from page* 1)

run product. Middle States claimed it was forced to give up operation of the Minnesota in 1941.

In the Milwaukee case, there are two plaintiffs. The Riverside Operating Co. operated the Riverside from 1934 to 1939. The other plaintiff, Middle States, says it operated the theatre from 1939 to 1941. Charging a similar squeeze play and claiming that they were unable to obtain first-run product, Middle States says it was forced to close in 1941.

Both plaintiffs are suing for a total of $1,750,000, based on damages of $500,000, allegedly suffered from 1934 until the present. This is tripled in an anti-trust damage suit and $250,000 is added to include lawyers' fees.

Warner Bros. and the Stanton-Riverside Co. of Wisconsin now operate the Riverside on a fifty-fifty arrangement. The suit names the Warner and Fox Theatre circuits as two of the main defendants. The Riverside company claims that Fox and Warners have had control of all first-run houses, except Riverside, from 1929 until present.

List of Allegations

In both the Milwaukee and Minneapolis complaints the following devices were allegedly used by defendants among themselves to deprive plaintiffs of first-run films: sharing advertising costs, operation contracts, contract modifications, reduction in film rentals where pictures were "disappointing," reduction in film rentals when films were double featured, changing percentage pictures to flat rental, elimination of some pictures by extending playing time of others, transference of pictures from one theatre to another of defendants, cancellation of some pictures contracted for, permitting defendants to play fewer pictures, cancellation of short subjects, and moveovers.

Defendants in both suits are: Paramount, Twentieth Century-Fox, RKO-Radio, Warner Bros., Columbia, Universal, United Artists, M-G-M and Universal. Also, Paramount News, Movietone News, Pathe News, National Theatres Corp., RKO Midwest Corp., Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp., Warner Bros. Theatres, Inc., and Screen Gems, Inc. Minnesota Amusement Co. is named as defendant in the Minneapolis case.

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Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

IATSE on Stand

(*Continued from page* 1)

stand that William Hutcheson, president of International Brotherhood of Carpenters, with which the striking Conference of Studio Unions carpenters are affiliated, should abide by the "Cincinnati agreement." Under terms of that 1945 strike settlement, CSU members were to have the right to "build" sets, while "IA" members were to "erect" them.

A key to the difficulty which has dragged out the present phase of the strike to more than three months is the shortage of space in studio carpenter shops, Walsh pointed out, explaining that most of the carpenter work on numerous sets now is being done on the stages where they are to be used, thus throwing more of the labor into the field of "erection" than the CSU members had originally anticipated. In supposedly "clarifying" the Cincinnati ruling by giving the "IA" only the right to assemble sets, an AFL arbitration committee violated the terms of that agreement, Walsh contends.

Joseph D. Keenan, Chicago Federation of Labor officer, who was appointed to seek approaches for settling the dispute, has postponed from Feb. 1 until late in the month his departure for Germany to become labor advisor to Gen. Lucius Clay, the military governor there, thus giving Keenan further time to spend on the film industry assignment, Walsh reported.

Meanwhile, the AAAA has scheduled a council meeting in New York for Jan. 28, the day before the AFL governing group meets in Miami, and is expected to act at that time on joining the SAG in demands for a Miami settlement of the strike issue, or at least for the establishment of machinery that can lead to such an end.

Schine Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

final and the other on the ground that a substantial question had not been shown.

McKay, in his petition this month, pointed to the New York Federal District Court's refusal to order divestiture in the industry anti-trust suit and further questioned the propriety of ordering the sale of theatres "which were not shown by the evidence to have any relation to any restraint of trade." It referred to Judge Knight's ordering of the appointment of a trustee to sell the properties as "a clear abuse of discretion" and took issue with the Buffalo court's accepting as evidence communications between employes of distributing companies.

In disclosing its decision to hear the appeal, the Supreme Court today said it finds "probable jurisdictions" in the case. The hearing is expected to appear on the docket in March.

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Review

"It's a Joke, Son"

(*Eagle-Lion*)

Hollywood, Jan. 20

THE first release from Eagle-Lion is a presentation on film of the Senator Claghorn character on the Fred Allen radio program, enacted in both media by Kenny Delmar. The radio program topped its classification in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's 1946 radio poll, clearly with the Claghorn character and type of humor a factor in that result, which is a circumstance to weigh in any showmanly consideration of the picture. Delmar looks in the picture about the way he sounds on the air, and his lines are of the same kind, thunderously championing the South and condemning the North, all in the interests of good, clean fun. It is what may be described as a specialty attraction, rather than otherwise, and figures to stand or fall on that basis.

The original screenplay by Robert Kent and Paul Gerard Smith presents Delmar as an exaggerated Southern gentleman, still fighting the Civil War with all who will listen, who blunders into becoming a nominee for state senatorship. It is all handled for comedy, ranging in variety from the vocal to the slapstick, but a little past midpoint the picture tightens up to include some gangsterism which gives it additional interest. It ends as it should, for all but the villains, who are not taken very seriously either.

Una Merkel, June Lockhart, Jimmy Conlin and Douglas Dumbrille are among the players present, but the spotlight is on Delmar throughout. Aubrey Schenck produced, on a moderate budget, and Ben Stoloff directed.

Running time, 64 minutes. General audience classification. Release date January 21.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

MP Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

heads and unaffiliated members of the organization's board of directors.

Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president and sponsor of the forum idea, is on record favoring immediate steps to start the discussion group, as is Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, who has been suggested as moderator. However, some of the distributors are understood to favor postponement.

The anti-trust suit itself also will be discussed tomorrow, with Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, expected to leave after the session for New York, where he has asked permission to appear before the Federal Court judges on Wednesday to seek clarification of a number of points in the final decree. Also on tomorrow's agenda are discussions of the Motion Picture Foundation and local checkers.

To devote his full time to the national organization, Wehrenberg resigned today from the presidency of the MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. Some 200 exhibitors attended a meeting of that group at the Jefferson and heard Levy's interpretation of the trust suit decree.

Lou Lehr was principal speaker at an evening banquet of the local group. Also on the program were Mrs. A. F. Burt of the Better Film's Council and State Senator Napier, attorney for the council.

Universal to Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

numerous clauses in the New York court's June 11 opinion were contrary to rulings of the high tribunal. Since then, Universal has requested a stay of competitive bidding, pending appeal, and has asked modification of the ban on franchise agreements.

Cooke has been associated with a number of Supreme Court cases, including the Schechter suit, which resulted in the invalidation of the National Recovery Act; the Morgan-Kansas City stock yard suit and the Max Krause meat industry suit. The latter action concerned tie-in sales under the Office of Price Administration.

Allied

(*Continued from page* 1)

which pictures are being taken out of the hands of exchange managers in favor of home office managers, was leveled at a meeting in New York of the board of directors of Allied held last week. Citing M-G-M and 20th Century-Fox as exceptions, Edward Lachman, president, said current practices are "too severe and strict."

Cleric Warns

(*Continued from page* 1)

picture men realized in the early thirties that they almost killed motion pictures with cheap, dirty stories and characterizations. The wave of moral indignation which swept over this country so frightened Hollywood that it cleaned its house and subscribed to a code which was supposed to insure the American people against indecent pictures.

"Had this code not been put into effect, motion pictures might well have gone back to the nickelodeon stage instead of rising to the place it has established for itself in the entertainment field.

"The code still exists, and while the letter of it may be obeyed, its spirit has been broken often enough to reflect discredit upon the men who profess to subscribe to it."

Citing "Duel in Sun" and "The Outlaw" as films in point, the editorial observes, "There have been many straws in the wind lately, and they would be wise men in Hollywood who would see the way the wind is blowing."

Curran Resigns

Harold M. Young, president of Harold Young Productions, Inc., producing company, has acquired the stock interest of Charles W. Curran, whose resignation as vice-president of Young Productions has been accepted.

Young has completed the direction of "Citizen Saint," a feature based on the life of Saint Mother Cabrini.

STATEWIDE WORLD PREMIERE—"IT'S A JOKE, SON!"

Austin, Paramount, Jan. 21; San Antonio, Aztec, Jan. 22; Houston, Metropolitan, Jan. 23; Dallas, Majestic, Jan. 24; Fort Worth, Hollywood, Jan. 25.

43 GREAT PRIZES

FOR EXHIBITORS IN

March of Dimes Contest

If you did not receive the broadside that was shipped to you directly, you can see the list of prizes here. See your press sheet for complete rules and details of the contest that offers equal chances to all theatres, regardless of size.

This space is contributed to the March of Dimes by MOTION PICTURE DAILY

CONTEST No. 1

1st Prize—
New Higgins Camp Trailer

2nd Prize—
Cine-Kodak Magazine 16 mm Camera

3rd Prize—
Ampro 8 mm Projector

4th Prize—
Hammonton Park Man's Suit

5th Prize—
Regent Cigarettes; a carton a week for one year

6th Prize—
12 Pairs of Fownes Gloves

7th Prize—
1-Year subscription to Book of the Month Club

8th Prize—
Gold Eversharp Pen

9th Prize—
An original Walt Disney Drawing

10th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

11th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

12th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

13th Prize—
Century Glide-O-Matic Electric Iron

14th Prize—
Set of Lord Davenport Briar Pipes

CONTEST No. 2

1st Prize—
Victor Animatophone 16 mm Sound Projector

2nd Prize—
R.C.A. Victor Television Receiver

3rd Prize—
Gold Kingston Watch

4th Prize—
Regent Cigarettes; a carton a week for one year

5th Prize—
Regent Cigarettes; a carton a week for one year

6th Prize—
Schiaparelli Shocking Perfume

7th Prize—
1-Year subscription to Book of the Month Club

8th Prize—
Gold Eversharp Pen

9th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

10th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

11th Prize—
Richelieu Pearl Necklace

12th Prize—
Century Glide-O-Matic Iron

13th Prize—
Century Glide-O-Matic Iron

14th Prize—
Solid Gold Key from Lambert Bros.

CONTEST No. 3

For Theatres Up to 300 Seats	Theatres 301 to 600 Seats	Theatres 601 to 1000 Seats	Theatres 1001 to 1500 Seats	Theatres 1501 Seats and Over
1st Prize— Apex Washer	*1st Prize—* Mercury II Camera	*1st Prize—* Apex Washer	*1st Prize—* Mark Cross Game Kit	*1st Prize—* Lionel "O-27" Freight Train
2nd Prize— Apex Deluxe Cleaner	*2nd Prize* Apex Deluxe Cleaner	*2nd Prize* Charles of the Ritz Make-Up Kit	*2nd Prize* Book of Knowledge Set	*2nd Prize—* Budd Cocktail Jacket
3rd Prize— Garod Playmate Radio	*3rd Prize—* Ciel Chapman Wrap	*3rd Prize—* Rembrandt Phonograph	*3rd Prize—* Spalding Ski Set	*3rd Prize—* 12 Haviland China Service Plates

MARCH of DIMES—MOTION PICTURE DIVISION

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DIRECTOR

HOTEL ASTOR, TIMES SQUARE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 15 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1947 TEN CENTS

MPTOA Board Approves Plan For MP Forum

Asks Meeting of All Exhibitors to Start It

St. Louis, Jan. 21.—The board of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, meeting at the Jefferson Hotel here, approved the proposal for a motion picture forum, advanced by Fred Wehrenberg, president, as an industry agency of self-regulation and conciliation of internal disputes.

The board urged that all branches of distribution and exhibition join to make the forum possible. Wehrenberg was authorized to communicate with national and regional exhibitor organizations to ask

(*Continued on page* 5)

E. C. Grainger Sees End of Price Rises

Cleveland, Jan. 21.—E. C. Grainger, president of Shea theatres, at the annual managers meeting here at the Carter Hotel, led a general discussion of all phases of theatre activities, reviewing the past year and anticipating this year's problems. Grainger anticipates no further admission price boost, on the basis of the present buyer resistance trend.

George Raftery, lawyer, of New York, explained the consent decree to the 35 managers present and its possible effect on the industry.

Attending the banquet tonight were 100 persons, including Eastern division

(*Continued on page* 7)

Western Penn. Allied Meet Opens Today

Pittsburgh, Jan. 21.—With officers to be elected and important business to be disposed of, the annual two-day convention of the Western Pennsylvania Allied will get under way in the William Penn Hotel here tomorrow.

A luncheon and open meeting will launch the affair, which was postponed twice because of hotel strikes. Among

(*Continued on page* 5)

MPTOA Favors an Appeal on Decree; Federal Tax Fight

St. Louis, Jan. 21.—Independent exhibitor directors of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America today opposed by resolution the film licensing methods established by the New York Federal court in its decree in the industry anti-trust suit and authorized Herman Levy, general counsel, to file a brief as *amicus curiae* in opposition to the selling plan if the decree is appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The directors also adopted resolutions opposing the extension of the federal admission tax beyond next

(*Continued on page* 5)

Permit Direct Line To Ex-Axis Nations

Washington, Jan. 21.—Film companies with proprietary interests in Germany and Japan, abandoned during the war, may now communicate directly with business parties or interests in those countries without channeling such inquiries through the State Department, it was said here today.

Heretofore, under wartime restrictions, persons in the United States were prohibited from communicating with business representatives in Germany or Japan concerning their property, nor could persons in the occupied nations communicate such information to residents of the U. S.

CIEA Favors Bidding Stay

Washington, Jan. 21.—It would be unwise to put the complicated and costly competitive bidding system into operation until all doubt is dispelled as to whether the Supreme Court will approve it as a proper Sherman Act remedy, Abram F. Myers, counsel for the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations, will say today in a letter to the New York Federal court supporting the major defendants motion that a 90-day stay be granted.

Myers will say that CIEA believes complete separation of production and

(*Continued on page* 5)

Skouras Names Drive Group

The national organization of the industry's drive for "American Brotherhood Week," Feb. 16-23, has been completed by Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox and national chairman of the drive. The industry's overall objective during this period will be 250,000 new memberships in American Brotherhood.

The campaign, which has been carried on for 11 years by the National

(*Continued on page* 7)

Five Seek New Amendments; Hearing Today

'Protective' Expansion, Pooling Stay Are Asked

The theatre-owning decree defendants yesterday filed a memorandum in Federal Court here, asking that the decision be amended to make it clear that they be allowed to acquire theatres in order to "protect their interests," rather than merely to expand in competitive areas as the decree may now be interpreted.

The memorandum asks further that a provision be made for a two-year

(*Continued on page* 5)

Edward C. Beatty Dies in Detroit

Detroit, Jan. 21. — Edward C. Beatty, 54, president of the 115-house Butterfield Circuit, died in his office here this afternoon of a cerebreal hemorrhage.

Born in Cortland, Ind., Beatty attended public schools in Indiana and

(*Continued on page* 7)

British CEA Leaders Cite Need of US Films

By PETER BURNUP

London, Jan. 21.—F. A. Prior, president of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, and W. R. Fuller, CEA secretary, declared jointly today that while the organization's proposals to the British Board of Trade for a new quota law differ in only two points from those of the British Film Producers' Association, they emphasized that the very business of British exhibitors depends upon Hollywood's enterprise, imagination and stars.

The BFPA proposals, published in Motion Picture Daily on Jan. 15, basically would affect theatres by changing the present method of calculating quota requirements by footage to one wherein films would be

(*Continued on page* 7)

$19,000,000 in New Rank Financing

London, Jan. 21.—The final stages of refinancing British Odeon Theatres have been completed by J. Arthur Rank with the issuance of the equivalent of some $19,000,000 in debentures and preferred shares.

Issued were 3,500,000 pounds ($14,000,000) in three-and-one-quarter per cent debentures, at par, ($4), and 1,250,000 shares of preferred shares ($5,000,000), at one pound par ($4), to be sold at 21 shillings ($4.20).

MGM Buys Astor Hotel in N. Y.

M-G-M has purchased the Hotel Astor, New York, in a deal reported to involve $5,700,000. In real estate circles, announcement of the purchase provoked speculation about whether the film company will demolish the building to erect a theatre and office building, but company spokesmen declined to comment. Vincent Astor retains title to the land on which the hotel is situated. Confirmation of the purchase came from Arthur Collins, vice-president of Brown, Wheelock, Harris, Stevens, Inc., brokers in the deal.

In This Issue

"The Pilgrim Lady" and "The Devil on Wheels" are reviewed on page 6; key city grosses are given on page 6.

M-G-M, Enterprise Sign Foreign Deal

Foreign distribution of Enterprise productions' output will, as expected, be handled by M-G-M through Loew's International, it was announced here yesterday by Arthur M. Loew, president of Loew's International. The deal is unique because it provides for export of the product outside the U.S. and Canada while United Artists is to distribute in this country. It climaxed a series of conferences with David Loew of the Enterprise board in Hollywood and Charles Einfeld, Enterprise president, here. Einfeld came here from Hollywood to conclude final arrangements for the new foreign setup, which was reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 16.

Asserting that the M-G-M unit would devote its "full resources overseas" to boosting Enterprise, Loew listed high on the list of product "Arch of Triumph," recently-completed $4,000,000 production starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer. Others set for Loew distribution in the first year are: "The Other Love," with Barbara Stanwyck and David Niven; "Body and Soul," with John Garfield and Lilli Palmer; "Wild Calendar," starring Ginger Rogers, and "Ramrod," with Joel McCrea, Veronica Lake, Donald Crisp and Don DeFore.

Wever, Ramsaye Will Address AMPA Meet

"New Trends in Magazine Promotion" will be the subject of a talk by George Wever, promotion director of *Life* magazine, at a luncheon-meeting of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers to be held at the Town Hall Club, here, on Feb. 6. The meeting will observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas A. Edison, inventor of the kinetoscope, and in this connection Terry Ramsaye, editor of *Motion Picture Herald* and industry historian, will address the gathering.

AMPA president Rutgers Neilson will preside at the meeting, and Phil Williams will be master-of-ceremonies. Among other guests invited to attend are: Oliver Jenson of the board of editors, and Don Marshman, cinema editor, of *Life*, and James Brown, publisher of *Editor and Publisher*.

Surveys New York for Equipment Meeting

Roy Boomer, secretary-treasurer of Theatre Equipment Supply Manufacturers' Association, Chicago, is in New York looking over hotel sites for the fall convention. Charlotte Boomer, his wife and publicity director of the association, is with him. They already have looked over sites in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.

Bert Stern Stricken

CLEVELAND, Jan. 21.—Bert Stern, head of Co-operative Theatres, Pittsburgh, suffered a heart attack while visiting here, and has been admitted to Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Personal Mention

NEIL F. AGNEW, president of the Selznick Releasing Organization, is due back in New York from Hollywood in a few days.

•

OSCAR F. NEU, head of Neumade Products and president of the Theatre Equipment Supply Manufacturers' Association, is in California, from New York, on association business.

•

GERALD MAYER, head of the international division of the Motion Picture Association, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

GEORGE RAFTERY, attorney, is expected to return to New York today from Cleveland.

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern and Southern division sales manager, is in Boston. He will return here tomorrow.

•

LOU NOVINS, assistant to Paramount president BARNEY BALABAN, will return to New York today from Washington.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern division sales manager, and SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager, left here last night for Buffalo.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Warner Southern division sales manager, has left here for Memphis and New Orleans.

8 Loew Promotions Are Made by Vogel

Eight Loew theatre managerial promotions have been made by Joseph R. Vogel, company vice-president.

Sam Pearlman, who began with Loew's Theatres in 1932 as an assistant manager at Loew's 46th Street, Brooklyn, and who has been manager of Loew's Triboro, Astoria, L. I., has been promoted to manager of Loew's State, Broadway. Pearlman succeeds Edward Douglas, resigned.

Following the death of David Schiller, manager of Loew's Dyckman, and resignations and transfers of several other managers, Vogel has also promoted seven assistant managers to the post of managers.

Robert Gibbons, assistant at the Capitol, was given the managerial spot at Loew's Plaza; William Klenert, assistant at the American, Parkchester, moves to Loew's Woodside; Joseph Stica was promoted from Loew's Jersey City to Loew's Dyckman; Harold Privalle, from Loew's Metropolitan to Loew's Canal; Howard Levy from the Paradise to Loew's Inwood; Nathan Bernstock from Loew's Victoria, Harlem, to the Melba, Brooklyn; William Carroll, from Loew's State to Loew's Post Road.

Donald Nelson May Get WAA Post Offer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—President Truman is considering the appointment of Donald M. Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Pictures Producers, to the post of War Assets Administrator.

Nelson is reported to be "cool" to the President's proposal. The SIMPP president visited the White House and talked with the President yesterday.

MPEA Meeting Today

Irving Maas, vice-president and general manager of the Motion Picture Export Association, will report on his survey of European conditions at a meeting today of the MPEA board of directors, at the Motion Picture Association's offices here. Foreign distribution managers of member companies will attend.

Sen. Robertson to Address Va. MPTO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Senator A. Willis Robertson of Lexington, Va., will be the chief speaker at the Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association's annual mid-winter conference here at the Shoreham Hotel on the evening of Feb. 3. Robertson will speak on "The Motion Picture and Its Place in Today's Society."

Heading the list of Virginians who are expected to attend, are Governor and Mrs. William M. Tuck. The Virginia Congressional delegation at the convention, other than Robertson, will include Senator Harry F. Byrd, and the following Congressmen and their wives: S. Otis Bland, Vaugh Gary, Patrick Drewry, Thomas B. Stanley, J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., Burr P. Harrison, Howard W. Smith, and John W. Flannagan, Jr. and Porter Hardy.

Sam Roth, Virginia circuit operator, is convention chairman.

Wright Meets Sears, Raftery on Decree

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, has advised Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president, and Gradwell Sears, vice-president in charge of sales, that roadshowing of films is illegal under the New York Federal Court decree. Following a meeting of the group, Wright said that "we did not discuss any one phase of the judgment in particular, but rather points of law including those on roadshows were taken up."

300 to Harry Furst Testimonial Today

Some 300 members of all branches of the industry in the New York area will join in a farewell tribute to Harry Furst, Universal salesman for 30 years, who is retiring, at a luncheon in the Hotel Astor, here, today. Harry Fellerman of the Universal sales organization will be toastmaster.

Furst will leave New York shortly for Atlanta, where he will live. The Motion Picture Associates has planned a special citation for him.

Newsreel Parade

GEORGIA'S "battle of the governors" is highlighted in all current newsreels. Other items include the signing of World War II treaties in Washington, the U. S. Army-Navy merger, Field Marshal Montgomery visiting Russia, and sundry other domestic and foreign matters, including winter sports. Full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 42—Georgia "battle of the governors." Army and Navy agree on unification. Washington: Secretary of State Byrnes signs peace treaties. Moscow: Field Marshal Montgomery visits Russia. Sports: billiards, skiing, ice skating.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 240 — Georgia's "battle of the governors." Byrnes' last official act. Merger of Army and Navy. Field Marshal Montgomery visits Russia. Inaugural handicap at Hialeah.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 43 — Field Marshal-Montgomery in Moscow. France rushes new troops to Indo-China. "March of Dimes." Washington: Army-Navy unification, Byrnes completes last task. Battle of Georgia's governors.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 45 — Field Marshal Montgomery in Moscow. Three strive to rule Georgia. Czechs' two-year "baby plan." *Photoplay* award to "Bells of St. Mary's." Byrnes signs peace treaties.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 6—Governorship feud rages in Georgia. High-ranking military heads and civilians plan Army-Navy merger in Washington. Fighting still raging between Greek troops and rebel units. Retiring Secretary of State Byrnes signs first peace treaties. Greek ship runs aground off English coast. Swanky style-parade for juniors and junior misses at New York's Stork Club.

Invalid Signatures Hit Daylight Hopes

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 21.—A check of half of the petitions seeking repeal of daylight saving time in St. Louis, by the election board, reveals that one-third of the signers are not bona fide registered voters as required by the referendum law. Included were duplications, failure of signatures to match those on registration books, and others not registered in the city.

The petitions were filed by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, in behalf of owners here who circulated petitions seeking repeal of daylight time. The petitions contained 24,300 names.

Powers Sets Up Firm

Pat Powers, formerly of the 20th Century-Fox exploitation staff and recently industrial film representative for Jerry Fairbanks, has set up his own staff to serve as consultant in the industrial and educational film field here and abroad. Powers will have offices in New York and Washington.

Cinema Lodge Event

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith will feature a presentation of the interfaith activities of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations at the Hotel Astor, here, on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Jack H. Levin is Cinema president.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

M-G-M's PRIZE PICTURE!

The Nation Hears About "THE YEARLING"!

"One of Hollywood's All-Time Achievements."—LOUELLA O. PARSONS, *nationally syndicated column*

"Picture of the Year...Masterpiece."
—THORNTON DELEHANTY, *Redbook Magazine*

"As beautiful a job as I have ever seen."
—MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS, *the author*

"Academy Award Picture. Best of the Year."—DOROTHY KILGALLEN, *nationally syndicated column*

"Picture of the Month."
—COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE

"The Pick of the Pictures."
—JIMMY FIDLER, *nationwide broadcast*

"The Movie of the Year."
—ESQUIRE MAGAZINE

"Picture of the Month."—PARENTS' MAGAZINE

"One of the Year's 10 Best."
—YOUNG AMERICA

"Movie magic. A classic."
—LOOK MAGAZINE

"Best Picture of The Year."
—SHEILAH GRAHAM, *nationally syndicated column*

"Our entry for Picture of the Year."
—THE CHRISTIAN HERALD

"One of the greatest epics ever to come out of Hollywood."—THE CATHOLIC YOUTH

"Magnificent. Pick of the Pictures."
—LIBERTY MAGAZINE

"Best Picture of the Year."
—TORONTO STAR WEEKLY

"It may be the greatest motion picture ever made in Hollywood."
—JOHN TODD, *International News Service*

This is the Year of THE YEARLING!

M-G-M's "THE YEARLING"
starring
GREGORY PECK
JANE WYMAN
A CLARENCE BROWN PRODUCTION
Claude Jarman, Jr. as "Jody"
Clem Bevans • Margaret Wycherly
Forrest Tucker • Photographed in Technicolor • Screen Play by Paul Osborn • Based on the Pulitzer Prize Novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings • Directed by Clarence Brown • Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
★

American Brotherhood Week, Feb. 16-23

Distributors End Extra Collections

TORONTO, Jan. 21.—A committee of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, headed by N. A. Taylor, has called off its five-months' dispute with Canadian film distributors over percentage provisions in the current film rental agreement following modifying developments on the part of film exchanges.

In a statement, Taylor, who is the head of 20th Century Theatres, said some of the distributor companies had replaced the controversial clause with a paragraph from the previous contract while others were following the policy of individual bargaining with exhibitors. The distributors' association as a whole, however, had declined to amend the standard license agreement for 1947, Taylor asserted.

The disputed clause gave distributors the privilege of collecting a percentage of all of a theatre's receipts in addition to box-office revenue, during the playing period of a participating feature. This provision applied to the sale of candy, any sub-rental of theatre property and revenue from subsidiary advertising.

Hughes Replies to MPA Seal Claim

Howard Hughes yesterday filed in U. S. District Court here his answer to counter-claims raised by the Motion Picture Association, in which the association charged that Hughes had not surrendered the PCA seal of approval from "The Outlaw," after the MPA had revoked it. The answer, provoked by counter-claims entered by the MPA in the Hughes anti-trust suit against the association, was filed by the office of Charles Poletti, attorney for Hughes, on the deadline set some time ago by Judge Alfred C. Coxe.

Solon Proposes U. S. Media Center Abroad

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Establishment by the film, book and magazine industries of a permanent overseas media promotion bureau to stimulate the sale of their products abroad was recommended here today by Sen. Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin. The Senator said the bureau would be a vital adjunct to the State Department in selling the American way of life to foreign peoples.

"Individual motion picture producers and distributors could and would, of course, continue to have their own offices overseas to sell their companies' films, but they could cooperate with the central promotion bureau to sell American media as against foreign media," the Senator said. He added that if people in other nations are given the opportunity to choose their own informational and entertainment media, American product would definitely be the choice.

ABC Eliminates All Video Programming

American Broadcasting Co. has discontinued all television studio programming in New York for an indefinite period, Paul Mowrey, the network's national director of television discloses.

"We have built up a backlog of tested shows, and during 1947 ABC television will concentrate principally on the construction of new stations and studios and the training of a television engineering department," he added.

Testing Stage Shows

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 21.—First test of straight stage shows at the 4,000-seat Radio City, here, will be made with a two-day engagement of the Veloz-Yolanda dance combination and company, this week, with tickets ranging from $1.20 to $3, including tax. The show will run about two hours. One show will be staged Thursday evening, with a matinee and evening show on Friday. Matinee prices will be scaled at $1.20 to $2.40.

Bolton Joins Selznick

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21. — Whitney Bolton, former publicity director for Warners, Columbia and other studios, and most recently with Goldwyn on special work for "The Best Years of Our Lives," has joined the David O. Selznick publicity department in charge of relations for contract players.

End Booking Contract

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 21.—By mutual agreement, Ted Mann, new operator of the World, first run, and Minnesota Amusement Co. have terminated a deal whereby the circuit has cooperated in buying, booking and advertising for the house.

'Sinbad' Tradeshows Set

RKO Radio has scheduled showings of "Sinbad the Sailor" for Tuesday, Jan. 28, in all cities except Des Moines, where a tradeshowing will be held on the following day.

'Dimes' 100% in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Jan. 21.—Theatres of Atlanta have subscribed 100 per cent to support the March of Dimes program, Jan. 23-29, by taking collections.

AVC Meet to Hear Youngstein, Prince

Executives and critics will address the film chapter of the American Veterans Committee this evening in the Henry Hudson Hotel. Walter T. Brown is chairman.

The forum, first in a series, will be conducted by Frank Quinn, critic for the *Daily Mirror;* Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity for Eagle-Lion; Don Prince, foreign exploitation manager for RKO Radio Pictures.

PRC Will Re-release 9 Small Productions

Arrangements have been completed between PRC Pictures and Edward Small Productions, for the reissue nationally of nine of Small's features, it is announced by Harry H. Thomas, president and general sales manager of PRC.

The nine films are: "The Count of Monte Cristo," "Last of the Mohicans," "The Man in the Iron Mask," "My Son, My Son," "The Son of Monte Cristo," "South of Pago Pago," "The Corsican Brothers," "Kit Carson," and "International Lady."

Thomas said national release dates would be announced shortly.

Gaumont-British and GTC Pay Dividends

LONDON, Jan. 21.—Gaumont-British has declared an interim dividend of five per cent on its ordinary and "A" ordinary shares for the year ending on March 31. There was no interim dividend paid in 1946.

J. Arthur Rank's General Theatre Corp. has also declared an interim dividend of seven-and-one-half per cent for the same period on participating ordinary shares. GTC, likewise, paid no interim dividend last year.

$100,000 for 'Yearling'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—Although it was originally intended to limit the Coast engagement of M-G-M's "The Yearling" to four weeks on a two-a-day policy, Fox West Coast has extended the run two additional weeks, starting tomorrow, at the Carthay Circle, where with the finish of the fourth week, tonight, the gross for the period is close to $100,000, a record for the house. The film will have its Eastern premiere on Thursday at Radio City Music Hall.

ITO Meet Postponed

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 21.—The convention of the Independent Theater Owners of Ohio has been postponed to Thursday and Friday, May 22-23, from March 18-19, because of overcrowded hotel conditions.

UW Acquires 21 'U' Features, Serials

United World Films, 16mm. unit of Universal, has taken over six of the latter's "Red Cameron" Westerns, plus 12 others and three serials for release in 16mm. to non-theatrical locations after the customary clearance beyond theatrical release dates, UW discloses.

The 12 features are: "Black Angel," "Inside Job," "Madonna of the Seven Moons," "River Gang," "The Seventh Veil," "Dark Horse," "Slightly Scandalous," "The Man in Grey," "Wife Beauty," "Senorita from the West," "The Cat Creeps" and "Her Adventurous Night." The Westerns are: "Beyond the Pecos," "Boss of Boomtown," "The Old Texas Trail," "Renegades of the Rio Grande," "Riders of the Santa Fe" and "Trigger Trail." The serials are: "Lost City of the Jungle," "The Royal Mounted Rides Again" and "The Scarlet Horseman."

Civic Film Grading Looms in Ontario

TORONTO, Jan. 21. — Compulsory grading of film features looms for Ontario, according to word from chairman O. J. Silverthorne of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch to Arch H. Jolley, executive secretary of the Ontario Theatres Association.

Silverthorne warned that legislative action is in prospect because a number of theatre proprietors had not heeded his formal request last June to advertise certain pictures as "adult entertainment." The promised legislation would provide penalties for failure to designate adult films for public information.

Directors Guild Elects

Bud Pollard has been re-elected president of the Screen Directors Guild of New York, with Rudolph Carlson and Joseph Henabery named first and second vice-presidents. Others elected are Gene Martel, treasurer, Harry Foster, recording secretary; Elmer Pearson, corresponding secretary. In addition to the officers, the new board of directors includes Al Altman, Jack Glenn, Boris Kaplan, Willard Van Dyke and Leslie Roush.

Crest Opens Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—Harry Crocker, Hearst columnist, will be master of ceremonies at the opening of the Crest at Long Beach on Thursday of Charles Skouras' 1,164-seat prefashioned theatre, with Joan Bennett, George Jessell, Walt Disney, Belita, Jeanne Crain, Nelson Eddy and Peggy Ann Garner attending. Some 5,000 bleacher seats have been erected.

THE BANK OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION • MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

New Amendments

(*Continued from page* 1)

time limit, instead of a July 1 deadline to rearrange pools with independents to conform to the decree. This latter period was given by the court for the dissolution of joint interests with independents.

It elaborates further on the companies' original motion for the stay on bidding dealing with some runs for exhibitors. It suggests that that conclusion of law regarding conspiracy with the distributor defendants to eliminate against independent competitors be adjusted to eliminate fixing of minimum admission price, run clearance and other license terms. It contends that the "exhibitor-defendants were not found guilty of having discriminated against their competitors in fixing admission price, run and clearance except to the extent that they received discriminations in certain situations."

Joint Memorandum

The five companies jointly submitted the memorandum in support of their motion of Jan. 10 asking that competitive bidding be stayed at least until 90 days after ultimate judgment of the U. S. Supreme Court. A hearing on the motion as well as petitions by Universal, Columbia and United Artists is to be held in Federal court here today.

The new defene memorandum cites the phraseology of paragraph 5 of section 3 of the decree. In this, it is declared, the distributors may enter competitive fields of exhibition so long as the percentage of theatre ownership is under five per cent or over 95 per cent.

Addition Sought

In consequence of this it is asked that paragraph six of this same section, which enjoins the defendants from taking new theatre holdings except as permitted in the preceding paragraph, have this additional wordage: "or except for the purpose of acquiring theatres or interests therein in order to protect its investments, or in order to enter a competitive field, if such defendant shall show to the satisfaction of the Court, and the Court shall first find, that such acquisition will not unduly restrain competition in the exhibition of feature motion pictures.

"Reasonable notice of the intention to make any such acquisition shall be served upon the Attorney General and the Plaintiff shall be given an opportunity to be heard with respect thereto before any such acquisition shall be approved by the Court."

Justice Department to Oppose Defense Petitions

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Justice Department attorneys today prepared a defense against all of the suggested amendments to the New York court decree made by the major defendants and will ask the court tomorrow to ignore the request for a stay on various phases of the judgment until the Supreme Court acts on the case.

Robert L. Wright, attorney handling the case for the Department, will contend that the defendants' amendment suggestions are bad in themselves and that any changes of the decree or additional stay will delay final litigation in the U. S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

CIEA Favors

(*Continued from page* 1)

distribution from exhibition is the only effective remedy for the restraints and inequities of the industry. CIEA, he states, is opposed to the proposal to permit the defendants to expand their theatre holdings to protect their investments or to enter a competitive field.

Protection should be given "outstanding independent franchises," Myers will tell the court. In the motion made by Universal asking a stay on existing franchises, Myers feels there is a danger that if it is adopted a hardship would result for the independent.

"Inasmuch as the question of a continuing right to buy franchises was not considered by the Conference, I do not feel warranted in approving Universal's motion in its entirety. I do feel authorized, however, to suggest that reasonable protection be given outstanding independent franchises," Myers contends.

Myers asserts that Universal has served notice of cancellation on its independent franchise holders, thereby placing a serious burden on independents.

Regarding flat rental offers, Myers says that the bidding system permits the defendants to reject all bids, even though they equal or exceed the minimum flat rental rate. "This is inconsistent with the theory and purpose of an upset price. It can only mean that the defendants are authorized to keep on rejecting bids until they receive a high percentage bid satisfactory to themselves. Such procedure would make meaningless the requirement for a minmum license fee, Myers asserts.

CIEA, Myers concludes, believes offers should be upon a flat rental basis, leaving it to the exhibitors to introduce the element of percentage when and if they see fit to compete for an exclusive run.

Myers explains in his communication that he is confined to his home and will not be able to attend the hearing tomorrow.

Penn. Allied Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

speakers will be Leon Bamberger, RKO-Radio; Robert Lippert, Screen Guild; Sam Seplowin, Republic; Earl Sweigert, Paramount; Jules Lapidus, Warners; Arthur Greenblatt, Monogram; E. M. Schnitzer, United Artists; Allan Smith, National Theater Supply; David Palfreyman, Motion Picture Association.

More than 300 are expected to attend Thursday's closed meeting at which Jack Kirsch, president of National Allied, will be the key speaker. Following the meeting the election of officers will be held. Morris Finkel is the retiring president.

The affair will close Thursday night with the annual banquet at which the new officers will be presented, and Leo Griffith, Pittsburgh civic leader, will be guest speaker.

M. P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

their approval of the broad principles of the forum and to invite them to send representatives to a national meeting of exhibitors at which tentative working plans for the forum would be formulated.

When exhibitors have reached an agreement, the board recommended that invitations then be sent to the heads of distribution companies and affiliated theatre companies for a joint meeting with independent exhibitor representatives at which approval of the forum and adoption of permanent plans for its functioning would be considered.

All participation in the forum should be entirely voluntary, the MPTOA board suggested, and it refrained from proposing officers or committees, urging only that all branches of exhibition and distribution be welcomed.

Originally, Wehrenberg had proposed that Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, serve as moderator of the forum and Johnston has since indicated his willingness to serve in any capacity, if invited to do so.

The board added that "no distinction or preference should be shown to any national or regional exhibitor association. MPTOA does not want nor may it have a greater voice in the forum than any other association or individual. The only voice above that of the others will be the moderator's, who will have parliamentary powers."

The board's resolution said: "No matter what the court decisions are, new methods of doing business will come to the industry. There will be complaints, grievances, strife and litigation, and ultimate government control. The forum idea will lead to accomplishment of conciliation and self-regulation."

MPTOA Favors

(*Continued from page* 1)

July 1 and in opposition to the continued use of local checkers for percentage engagements.

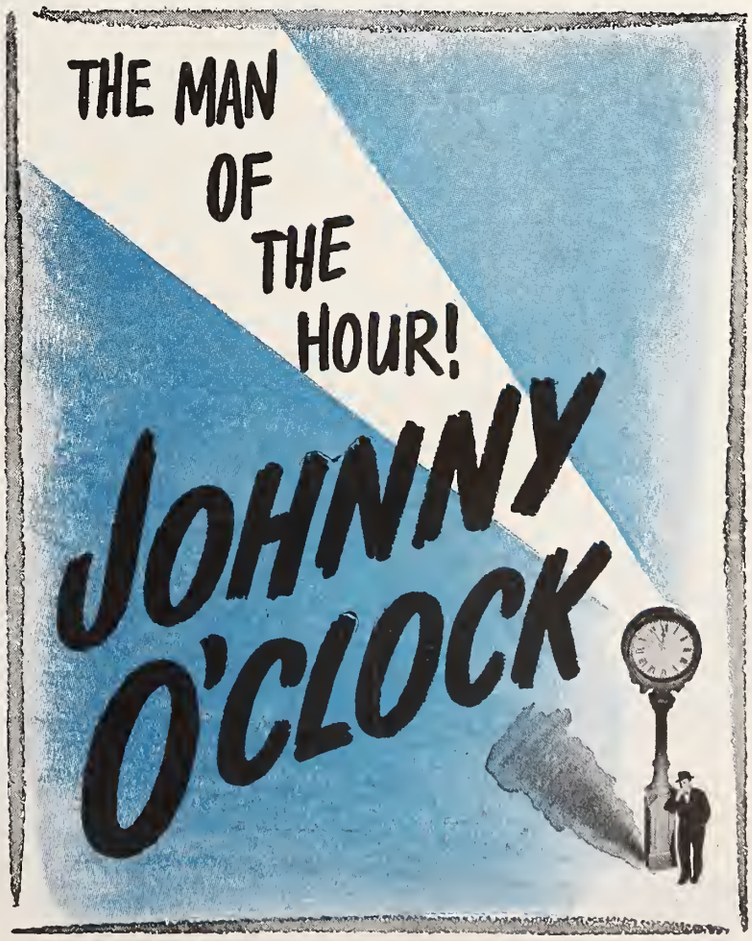
Recent action by the House Ways and Means committee in approving the bill to extend Federal excise taxes for another year without public hearings having been held was criticized by the board. Directors and representatives of regional units were urged to distribute copies of the resolution to their representatives in Congress and to advise them that motion pictures are not a luxury but a necessity.

Morris Lowenstein of Oklahoma City, MPTOA secretary, reported that the MPTO of Oklahoma already has approached its Congressmen on the admission tax issue.

David Palfreyman of the Motion Picture Association, Washington, told the meeting that motion pictures contributed about $400,000,000 of the total amusement tax collection of $460,000,000. Contrasted with this, he said, estimates of production costs of all motion pictures for 1946 are around $350,000,000.

The average theatre with 650 seats, Palfreyman said, pays $23,000 per year in Federal taxes and, in addition, 27 states and 85 to 100 cities impose admission taxes on theatres.

Leon Bamberger of RKO Radio, New York, was a convention speaker at an earlier session.



Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"Till the Clouds Roll By" did enormous business here during a week of balmy weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MAN HUNT Col.)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,900)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,000.

THE YEARLING (M-G-M) — CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300)(50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $19,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MAN HUNT (Col.)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $7,700)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days. Gross: $26,000.

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MAN HUNT (Col.)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,600)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $12,700)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $8,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $23,700)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $11,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $26,200)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $24,600)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $6,100)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) ($1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $5,800)

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Review

"The Pilgrim Lady"

(Republic)

WARREN DOUGLAS, Lynne Roberts, Alan Mowbray and Veda Ann Borg are the principals in this glossy, unpretentious comedy, spun from the familiar theme about a bespectacled, studious miss who, by force of circumstances, poses as the author of a risque novel written by an elderly spinster whose personal appearance would deprive the book of promotional possibilities foreseen by a literary agent. One of last year's films, "She Wrote the Book," starring Joan Davis, was built very much along the lines of this one. Adequately sprinkled with chuckles, "The Pilgrim Lady" (which gets its title from the title of the book it tells about), should provide a pleasant hour's entertainment for neighborhood theatre customers, for whom it appears particularly slotted.

Miss Roberts is the studious young lady who volunteers to pose as the author of the book, written by her aunt (Helen Freeman). When Douglas, New York literary agent, first sees the bespectacled Miss Roberts he fails to conceal his disappointment over her appearance, but later on when she, inspired by radio commentator Mowbray, dofts her glasses and fluffs up her hair, both he and Mowbray fall in love with her. The authorship ruse is concealed from Miss Roberts' father and sister, but when they too visit New York and meet up with their two wandering kinfolk, complications mount, but finally all ends happily with Miss Roberts and Douglas in each others arms and the truth about the book's authorship satisfactorily explained. Clarence Kolb, Doris Merrick, Russell Hicks, Carlyle Blackwell, Jr., and others round out the cast. Lesley Selander directed from a screenplay by Dane Lussier. William J. O'Sullivan was associate producer.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 22.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"The Devil on Wheels"

(Producers Releasing)

"THE Devil on Wheels" is essentially a lecture on the evils of reckless driving. It was produced by Ben Stoloff, with Jerry Briskin as his associate, and depicts the near-tragedy which results to a family when a teen-age son, in a hit-and-run accident, almost kills his mother. Darryl Hickman is the youth with the home-made, high-powered car who, learning from the disparity between his father's lectures and actions, displays only moderate caution.

It is difficult to estimate audience reaction to a picture of this type because it has its terrifying moments, and devotes only salutary footage to building up characterizations. On the positive side, however, is the welcome relief from the jive-talking youngsters who have only dances and dates in mind. How the plot is contrived is of little importance; suffice it to say that the youngsters of the town, with their home-built autos, are a problem, and that the parents, in their own laxness, are responsible in part for consequences.

Also in the cast are Lenita Lane as the mother, Damian O'Flynn as the father, James Cardwell as Hickman's older brother, Noreen Nash as the love-interest and daughter of a judge, played by William Forrest. The other youngsters are Jan Ford and Sue England, girl-friends of Hickman and Bobby Arthur, with Arthur slated for death as a result of an accident. Performances are good, matched by sharp photography. Crane Wilbur directed from his own story and screenplay.

Running time, 67 minutes. General auditnce classification. Release date, not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MAN HUNT (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $16,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $23,100)

BLUE SKIES (Para.) and THE LAST CROOKED MILE (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $24,100)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,400)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,300. (Average: $9,300)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $8,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $15,100)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $21,600)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $16,100)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $15,700)

CHICAGO

With spring-like weather prevailing, Loop houses reported exceedingly good business. The surprise of the Loop are two Paramount reissues, "The Plainsman" and "The Jungle Princess," which grossed $31,000 in their first week at the Rialto. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 21-23:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $21,000. Average: $12,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) 4th week. On stage: Burl Ives. Gross: $48,000. (Average: $60,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (55c-65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c, adults only) 2nd week. On stage: Milt Herth Trio. Gross: $50,000. (Average: $45,000)

Key Grosses

TEMPTATION (U) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $24,000)

THE PLAINSMAN (Para. reissue) and THE JUNGLE PRINCESS (Para. reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c). Gross: $31,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $47,000. (Average: $29,000)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) — UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 5th week. Gross: $49,000. (Average: $20,000)

PITTSBURGH

"Notorious" is doing top business at the Stanley, with other houses showing up fairly well. The weather has been ideal. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 23:

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 3rd week, on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,500)

THE NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN (UN)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $5,400. (Average: $3,200)

NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)

ST. LOUIS

"Till the Clouds Roll By" is doing outstandingly well in its third week at Loew's State, and other grosses are satisfactory. The weather has been good. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

HUMORESQUE (WB) — AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $21,000. (Average: $18,000)

SUSPENSE (Mono.) and DECOY (Mono.)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $20,000. (Average: $20,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 3rd week. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c) 4th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,500)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE KILLERS (U) and NOBODY LIVES FOREVER (WB)—SHUBERT (1,900) (40c-50c-60c). Gross: $4,500. (Average: $7,000)

ATLANTA

Business has fallen off, in part because of a rainy spell, which has reached its 19th day. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c). Gross: $12,500. (Average: $13,000)

REBECCA (UA reissue)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c). Gross: $7,600. (Average: $8,200)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $5,300. (Average: $5,600)

BEDLAM (RKO Radio) and VALLEY OF THE ZOMBIES (Rep.)—CAPITAL (2,446) (44c-50c). Gross: $4,100. (Average: $4,200)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (50c-60c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,000)

N.Y. 1st-Run Income Spotty; '13 Rue,' 'Best Years' Score

Grosses at New York first-runs add up to an overall unimpressive average. The week's business at a few situations is ceiling high while at others income has faltered. A few days of unfavorable weather was held responsible along with box-office weariness of the films after a few weeks of play-time.

On the top are "13 Rue Madeleine," outstanding newcomer at the Roxy, and "The Best Years of Our Lives," the holdover business favorite, at the Astor.

"Madeleine," accompanied by Gracie Felds and others on the stage, amassed a tremendous $105,000 in its first five days, with the week figured to bring in $130,000. The Roxy is back to its pre "Razor's Edge" scale of $1.25 top for weekdays and $1.50 for week-ends and holidays. "The Best Years of Our Lives" continues its earning power at the Astor, in its ninth week; business is estimated at $57,000.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is holding up well at the Globe, where the fifth week run should hit $35,000. "California" got off to a big start at the Rivoli with a mighty $60,000 apparent. First week of "The Perfect Marriage," at the Paramount, with the Mills Brothers topping the stage bill, is good for about $70,000.

"Humoresque" Healthy

An income of $23,500 during the five days ending at the weekend indicates a healthy $29,500 for the fourth week of "Humoresque" at the Hollywood. At the Strand, "The Time, the Place and the Girl," with Vaughn Monroe's orchestra on stage, drew about $34,000 for four days with a gross of $48,000—not too high—in view for a fourth and final week; "The Man I Love" will make its New York debut at the house on Friday.

"Till the Clouds Roll By," with a stage presentation, grossed a good $74,000 on Thursday through Sunday at the Music Hall, where $111,000 is anticipated for the seventh and final week; "The Yearling" will bow in tomorrow.

"The Secret Heart" and Tommy Dorsey's orchestra at the Capitol, which combined to take in $62,700 last week, is falling off with a modest $53,000 expected for the fourth and final week; "Lady in the Lake" will open at the house tomorrow. "Stairway to Heaven" is holding nicely at the Park, where $17,500 for a fourth week is looked for. "The Wicked Lady" is figured to take a lukewarm $18,000 in a fifth and final week at the Winter Garden. "Swell Guy" will open Friday evening in a benefit premiere for the Damon Runyon Memorial; the regular run will begin on Saturday.

At the Criterion, "Love Laughs at Andy Hardy" lost more ground in its second week with about $16,000. "Dead Reckoning" will open there today. Also to open today is "Sinbad the Sailor" at the Palace; the present tenant, "Song of the South," ended its eighth and final week with $21,000, which is not too strong.

"Ladies Man" was on the minus side at the Gotham, where it was pulled to make way for "Her Sister's Secret"; the former took about $4,500 in four days of a second week. "The Beast With Five Fingers," at the Victoria, is falling to about $10,000 in a fourth and final week and will be succeeded today by "Wake Up and Dream."

At the Rialto, "Murder in Reverse" is running into some box-office diffculty this week, its second, with $7,000 expected; "Tower of London" will open there on Friday. The perennial "Henry V," now in its 21st week at the John Golden, still hovers around the $11,000 mark, which is profitable.

Skouras Names

(*Continued from page* 1)

Conference of Christians and Jews, is being designed to reach greater proportions this year than at any time in its history. Radio, the press, national organizations and the industry are uniting efforts toward this goal. The national drive is headed by President Truman as honorary chairman, and John G. Winant, former Ambassador to Great Britain, as national campaign chairman.

Jack Kirsch, president of National Allied, Fred Wehrenberg, president of the MPTOA, and Ted R. Gamble, chairman of the board of the American Theatres Association, are co-chairmen with Mr. Skouras. National vice-chairmen are: Barney Balaban, J. Robert Rubin, Herman Robbins, Max A. Cohen, Si Fabian, Jack Cohn, Harry Brandt, Louis Nizer, Ned Depinet, H. J. Yates.

Plans have been made to mobilize every theatre in the drive, with a quota of 10 pledges or more per theatre to be secured by exhibitors. These pledges will be in the nature of an affirmation of the principles of racial and religious equality subscribed to by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in fostering good will among men.

During "Brotherhood Week," newsreels will include a special short produced by David O. Selznick, featuring Hollywood stars who will bring the drive's message to the public.

The following committees are already actively engaged in the drive:

Campaign Action Committee: Presidents of all national, state, and local exhibitor associations, with Robert W. Coyne, ATA; Ed Lachman, New Jersey Allied and Herman Levy, MPTOA co-directors.

Executive Assistant to the National Chairman: Sam Shain.

Distributors' Committee: Tom Connors, chairman; William Rodgers, Charles Reagan, William Scully, Ned Depinet, Gradwell Sears, James R. Grainger, Abe Montague, Ben Kalmenson, Robert Mochrie, and Peter Levathes, assistant to the chairman.

Publicity and Advertising Committee: Charles Schlaifer, Christy Wilbert, Ernest Emerling, Harry Mandel, Curtis Mitchell, Si Seadler, Stanley Shuford, Harry Goldberg, Don Velde, Gordon Swarthout, Morris Kinzler.

Hollywood Committee: David O. Selznick, H. Peter Rathvon, Henry Ginsberg.

Finance Committee: Robert Rubin, Malcolm Kingsberg, Donald Henederson.

Broadway Committee: Gus Eyssell, Robert Weitman, Monty Salmon, Zeb Epstein, Harry Greenman, chairman.

Fund-Raising Committtee: Will Hays, Dave Weinstock, William Rodgers, Ned Depinet, Herman Robbins, Abe Montague.

Special Advisory Committee to National Chairman: Joseph R. Vogel, Sol Schwartz, Leonard Goldenson, Dan Michalove, Harry Kalmine, Max Gordon, Harry Brandt.

Trade Press Committee: Martin Quigley, Jack Alicoate, Abel Green, Ben Shlyen, Jay Emanuel, Chick Lewis, Mo Wax, Billy Wilkerson, Morton Sunshine, Arthur Ungar, Peter Harrison, Robert Welsh.

Newsreel Committee: Ed Reek, chairman, Al Richard, Mike Clofine, Tom Mead, Al Butterfield.

Campaign Coordinators: Ned Shugrue, Ed Fabian, Leon Bamberger, Uldic Bell.

House Organ Committee: Roger Ferri, chairman.

Allied Industry Committee: Emil Friedlander, George Feinberg.

Talent Committee: Irving Berlin, Ray Bolger, Harvey Greenman and Bob Weitman.

British Leaders

(*Continued from page* 1)

counted numerically.

Both Prior and Fuller today deplored the "quite perpetual disparagement" of Hollywood. Elaborating, Prior said flatly that without American pictures—which they said still constitute at least 80 per cent of British theatre programs—independent exhibitors in this country might just as well close shop.

Prior added that this is the principal argument for the retention of a quota for British distributors. The BFPA proposals to the BOT for a new quota recommended that a distributors' quota be abolished in any new quota law. He added that everyone in Britain nowadays knows what undercounter shopping entails, citing 1,125 of the country's 5,000 exhibitors as defaulting on their 1946 quota requirements. He warned that the BFPA's proposed elimination of a distribution quota would mean 2,500 exhibitors would default annually, thereby being stigmatized as lawbreakers.

He declared that a decent understanding of America is the essence of British exhibitors' livelihoods and means the success of the whole British film industry. He said he would welcome Americans producing in England which would mean that they would place part of their British film income into production here, thereby reducing the present melancholy from the exportation of dollars to America.

Prior declared that owing to labor agreements, forbidden nightwork, and other obstacles, British production will only reach 66 per cent of pre-war totals, despite the availability of studio space. He asked how could Britain venture to compete with America under such conditions, adding that Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, when in Britain agreed that the present setup whereby Britain gets so little in film is undesirable.

Edward C. Beatty

(*Continued from page* 1)

graduated from the University of Kentucky. His first venture in show business was with Jeffrey Brothers' dog-and-pony show, after which he became manager of a motion picture theatre in Lexington, Ky.

Beatty went to work with the late Col. W. S. Butterfield in 1914 to manage the Bijou in Bay City, Mich. In 1927 he became general manager and secretary of the circuit. When Butterfield died in 1936, Beatty became president and treasurer.

Beatty's widow is among his survivors. Funeral services have not been set.

End of Price Rises

(*Continued from page* 1)

sales managers and territorial district managers. Also here from New York are Jack Shea, Tom Shea, Gerald Shea, George Goett, William Barry, Jack Cineliffe, Mike Callaghan, Phil Lowe, Raymond Showe, Ben Perse. Grainger will return to New York Saturday.

It's here! Starting January 27th on the Chesapeake & Ohio

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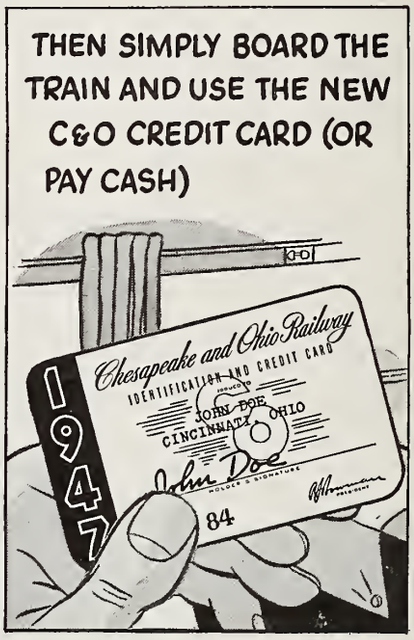

SOME six weeks ago the Chesapeake and Ohio announced its intention of installing, for its passengers, a simple Credit Card plan and space reservation by phone. Now that plan is here. It goes into effect the 27th of this month.

No longer do you have to spend your valuable time waiting in ticket lines. No longer do you have to dash down to the station to pick up your reservations. The C & O does all your scurrying and worrying for you.

All you do is reach for a phone. For now—and this is new—you can reserve space in reserved-seat coaches as well as Pullman* space.

For Pullman Space, phone in your name and Credit Card number. Go to your reserved space aboard the train, and charge it on your C & O Credit Card or pay cash if you prefer.

For Space in Reserved-Seat Coaches, simply telephone in advance, giving your name. Go to your reserved seat on the train, and pay for your ticket there, or charge it on your Credit Card if you prefer.

And there's another important feature to the new Credit Card. You can use it to charge any C & O service on the train or in the station. This includes meals in dining cars and baggage service.

Apply For Your Credit Card Now!

You're invited to apply for a C & O Credit Card, right away. Just call any Chesapeake & Ohio Ticket Office for an application . . . or write Chesapeake & Ohio, Terminal Tower, Cleveland 1, Ohio. Do it today and take immediate advantage of this new traveling convenience.

The "Charge-It-As-You-Go" Plan is the latest—but not the last—of many far-reaching improvements pioneered by the Chesapeake & Ohio to make rail travel more comfortable, more sensible.

**To hold Pullman space by phone, it will be necessary to have a Credit Card. Pullman space, if not used, must be properly cancelled, or it will be charged to your account.*

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VOL. 61. NO. 16 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1947 TEN CENTS

Jury Awards $966,000 in Momand Suit

Distributors to Appeal Boston Jury's Verdict

BOSTON, Jan. 22. — Stemming from an action first instituted in Oklahoma City in 1931, a Federal Court jury today decided in favor of A. B. Momand, former Oklahoma theatre operator, in his restraint-of-trade suit against eight distributors, calling for treble damages of $966,000, including interest.

Judge J. Wyzanski reserved the right to set aside the jury's verdict and will hear argument tomorrow on a motion by the defendants asking substantial reduction of the damages, claiming them to be excessive.

The case took numerous litigation twists and turns in Oklahoma until 1937, when it was brought to Boston, where Momand now resides. Another action by Momand against the distributors is pending in Buffalo Federal Court.

Momand contended during the

(Continued on page 7)

Wartime Excises Get Additional Support

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The House Rules Committee today supported continuation of wartime excise taxes, including the 20 per cent theatre admission tax, after getting testimony that the tax load soon will be lightened in other respects.

Upon recommendations of the Ways and Means Committee, the rules group voted for House action next week on a bill to continue war excises.

Without the new legislation, the war

(Continued on page 7)

Paramount Starts Coast Television

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Paramount's television station KTLA began commercial operations tonight as a studio audience of over 500 screen personalities, local and state civic leaders and company executives witnessed the inaugural broadcast. Paramount also

(Continued on page 7)

'Grass-Roots' Owners Severely Attack Decree

ATLANTA, Jan. 22.—At a regional meeting of members of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Georgia, representing independent exhibitors of middle and South Georgia, general dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the New York statutory court's decree, J. H. Thompson, president, declaring: "Our organization represents the 'grass-roots' of exhibitors in Georgia, a group seldom heard from on various policies and rulings laid down by distributors and the courts, but nonetheless more vitally affected by them than perhaps any other single group in the industry. We have watched the whole issue of our right-to-buy dragged through the courts for nine years, and after the recent statutory court decree, we find that our position regarding the right-to-buy product completely turned over to the distributors and the court.

"Our association is made up entirely of small independent exhibitors

(Continued on page 6)

March 1, US Appeal Date

The Department of Justice has selected March 1 as the date for filing its Supreme Court appeal from the New York Federal District Court's final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, said here yesterday.

Conferring informally with defense attorneys, Wright agreed that, under the high tribunal's Rule No. 52-B, the 60 days allowed for preparing and filing appeals could quite likely be held to begin with the date when the local court rules on the motions presented to it yesterday, rather than

(Continued on page 6)

March 8 Is Set for Greek Orphan Drive

Ned E. Depinet, Si Fabian and Jack Cohn, co-chairmen of the motion picture appeal for the War Orphans of Greece, in honor of Spyros P. Skouras, announce that the drive will start March 8 and continue one month. Scheduled to begin next month, the later date was chosen to aid co-ordination.

Tom Connors heads the distributors'

(Continued on page 7)

Tom Clark Organizes Small Business Unit

Washington, Jan. 22.—U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark today established a small-business unit in the anti-trust division of the Justice Department. "The unit is authorized to invoke all the power which Congress has conferred to maintain full opportunity and free competition in business," Clark said.

Bernhard Is FC President

Joseph Bernhard, former president of United States Pictures, and prior to that a Warner executive, has been named president of Film Classics. He will make his headquarters at FC's New York office. Heretofore, Film Classics did not have a president *per se*. Sam Wheeler is the company's sales manager, and Jules Chapman is Wheeler's executive assistant.

Joseph Bernhard

Concurrent with Film Classic's announcement yesterday of Bernhard's appointment, Bernhard himself disclosed that

(Continued on page 7)

New Stromberg-UA Pact for 9 Films

United Artists' board of directors yesterday authorized a new three-year deal with Hunt Stromberg for the production of nine more pictures. Under the last contract, the producer delivered five films to UA, including "Lady of Burlesque," "Guest in the House," "Young Widow," "Strange Woman" and "Dishonored Lady," the latter to be released shortly.

Court Turns Cold Ear to Decree Pleas

Quick Decision Likely Vs. Defense Petitions

By TOM LOY

The New York statutory court at a hearing yesterday indicated that it probably would deny all defense motions for modification of the final judgment and would grant no stay of the competitive-bidding clause beyond the July 1 effective date established in the decree. A ruling on the defense motions is expected momentarily.

Judge Augustus N. Hand, presiding at the hearing, indicated from the bench that the court was unmoved by pleas that the bidding provision be held up until 90 days after final disposition of the case by the Supreme Court. "If there's an appeal," he said, "you can go right down

(Continued on page 6)

All but 'Big 5' Now Certain to Appeal

While theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit are still silent on initiating appeals, all three non-theatre owning defendants and the Department of Justice yesterday expressed determination to carry the case to the Supreme Court.

Appearing at a hearing on motions for modification of the New York Federal District Court's final decree, Edward C. Raftery, of United Artists, said his company will appeal from the bans on price-fixing and franchise

(Continued on page 6)

Theatre Expansion Gives ATA Concern

The American Theatres Association, which up to now has been seeking to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit for the sole purpose of opposing competitive bidding, yesterday indicated an extension of its interest to include the question of theatre expansion.

Thurman Arnold, ATA counsel,

(Continued on page 6)

Personal Mention

ERIC A. JOHNSTON, president of the Motion Picture Association, now in Washington, will address the Rochester, N. Y., Chamber of Commerce Monday evening.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic executive vice-president in charge of sales, and distribution, and JAMES V. O'GARA, newly-appointed Eastern division sales manager, returned here yesterday from Detroit and Chicago.

•

CHARLES EINFELD, head of Enterprise Prod., is making his headquarters at the Loew's home office during his current New York visit, ending next week.

•

I. J. SCHMERTZ, 20th-Fox's Cleveland branch manager, and JERRY STEEL, owner of the Apollo, Cleveland, have left for a Florida vacation accompanied by their wives.

•

M. A. LIGHTMAN, SR., Malco Theatres president, Memphis, has recovered from a long illness and will head a drive in May for $40,000 for Chinese relief.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal-International assistant general sales manager, is in San Francisco from New York.

•

EDWARD L. WALTON, Republic assistant general sales manager, left here last night for Minneapolis and Des Moines.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner vice-president and general sales manager, left here yesterday for Chicago and other Midwest exchange centers.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president and director of advertising-publicity, is scheduled to return here today from the Coast.

•

G. L. CARRINGTON, president of Altec, and A. A. WARD, vice-president of Altec Lansing, have returned to Hollywood from Detroit.

•

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, vice-president and general sales manager of National Screen Service, has left here for Hollywood.

•

CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, is scheduled to leave for the Coast tomorrow.

•

JOHN HERTZ, JR., chairman of the board of Buchanan and Co., is in Washington.

•

R. K. HAWKINSON, RKO-Radio assistant foreign manager, has left here for Mexico City.

•

NICHOLAS NAPOLI, Artkino president, has left here for Havana.

•

WILLIAM STEPHENS, producer, will arrive here Saturday from the Coast.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

ONE explanation, shared in a number of places where there is plenty of savvy, for that recent recession in film securities was uncertainty over the manner in which the final consent decree will bear on theatre operations of major circuits. This viewpoint was explained here last Thursday. Wall Street's belief that declining grosses were the more directly responsible failed to rally much support. Or much understanding, for that matter.

Subsequent checking, however, places on deck a set of figures which tend to support the contention that the course of theatre receipts may have furnished the reason after all, thereby establishing the basis of Wall Street's conclusions no matter how circumspectly or fleetingly those conclusions may be regarded in the light of the whole pattern and not merely parts of it.

■

The Government reported tax collections from admissions of $48,597,428 in October, the collections once more covering the preceding month's business. It has come to be accepted as the denominator in many quarters that 87.5 per cent of the tax stems from motion picture houses. Accepting this as the foundational yardstick with the tax itself at 20 per cent, it follows that picture theatres did a gross business of $213,613,747 in September, or the month covered by the announced October figures.

Collections of $36,393,291 reported in November indicate an overall picture-house gross of $159,215,648 for October. The shrinkage in October over September, consequently, turns out to be $54,398,099. The guess, therefore is that this decline in business, plus the speculation over the impact and workability of the decree, induced the recession in securities values over which so much comment and so much mystery had developed.

■

But this is only a part of the story. While October reflected a loss over September, the latter month showed an increase in gross of $37,784,982 over September of 1945, when the gross was $175,828,765 and an upsurge of $55,016,005 over August of 1946, when the national take was an indicated $158,597,742.

Collections for January through November of this year covering December of 1945 through October of 1946, totaled $413,743,551, pointing up a national intake of $1,810,128,035 in that period and comparing with a tax of $375,306,013 for a gross of $1,641,963,850 in the identical preceding period. This is an increase of $168,164,185, or a lot of dollars in any man's language

Proving, we maintain, that there is plenty of life in the old bird yet.

■ ■

Speculation over the legal position of companies not entangled in the Government suit appears to be heading for a quick dissolve on the strength of the statement made by Robert Wright of the Department of Justice. While not bound by the decree, these companies have to watch their step in considering any practices which the New York court has found to be violative of the Federal anti-trust laws.

We were pointing out here only recently that non-defendants were aware of the situation and are inclining toward conduct in strict keeping with their inclination. Wright, moreover, clearly suggested, without stating it in specific language, that the D. of J. is prepared to pounce on any company probably ill-advised enough to step out. He would use the decree as precedent.

Of course.

■ ■

Statement issued by David O. Selznick relative to the United Artists litigation read at one point:

"The management [UA] repeatedly told Pickford, Chaplin and their representatives that there was no merit whatsoever to their claim Selznick and/or Vanguard had violated their contracts by turning over to 20th-Fox and to RKO Radio stories and scripts which Selznick had abandoned and provided for in his distribution agreement because he did not think them up to his standard. . . ."

And so he sold them to both companies and, in the case of RKO, at 50 per cent of the profits.

■ ■

If the war has served Hollywood in any positive way, it is in the provocation of a healthy trend toward realism which, in some respects, might redound to the financial and creative benefit of American films, Frank Capra tells MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Where was his conviction when he made "It's a Wonderful Life?"

Bill Introduced to Curb N. Y. Licenses

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 22.—Senator William Condon and Assemblyman Malcolm Wilson, Westchester Republicans, have introduced a bill in line with the regents' recommendation in "The Outlaw" case that the Education Law be amended to authorize the Motion Picture Division to ke the license for a film if adve. ng of any kind is indecent, immoral, inhuman, etc.

The bill apparently broadens the scope of the law to include advertising in newspapers and magazines which, the regents stated in denying New York City License Commissioner Fielding's appeal for revocation of "The Outlaw" license, is not presently covered.

Bateman Headed for Philadelphia Talks

F. A. Bateman, general sales manager of Screen Guild Productions, who is now touring the country for a series of conferences at the company's field sales offices, is scheduled to leave New York today for Philadelphia for discussions with Jack Engel. He held talks here yesterday with Arthur Lockwood and Louis Gordon, New England franchise holders.

Explaining that by the time he returns to Hollywood he will have covered all offices except those in the South, Bateman said that he would head for Chicago on Saturday, where he will confer with St. Louis, Minneapolis and Milwaukee representatives.

5 French Pictures To AFE for U. S.

William Shelton, sales manager of AFE Corp., has acquired the following French pictures, to be nationally distributed in the U. S. during 1947.

De Maupassant's "Boule De Suif," now called "Angel and Sinner"; "Felicie Nanteuil," now called "Twilight"; "The Girl from Arles"; "La Belle Aventure," now called "There Goes the Bride"; "Dernier Atout," now called "The Last Trump," and "The Devil in the Flesh."

Three More Circuits Join 'Dimes' Drive

Three more circuits joined the March of Dimes yesterday and have scheduled audience collections at every performance Jan. 24-30, according to an announcement made by Emil C. Jensen, director of the motion picture division.

The circuits are Bulkley Amusement Enterprises, Shamokin, Pa.; Atlantic Theatres, Philadelphia; Hudson Theatres, Richmond, Ind.

Hart Left a Million

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—William S. Hart, the late silent-screen cowboy star, left an estate estimated at $1,044,919, according to an executor's accounting approved by the court.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Western Pa. Allied Hears Rosenberg

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22.—A luncheon and open meeting which was followed by an unexpected closed session launched the 26th annual coanvention of the Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania in the William Penn Hotel here today.

Definite spirit of levity appeared to prevail in the open session, for, of all the long list of speakers introduced by President Morris Finkel, only M. A. Rosenberg, chairman of the board of directors, had anything to say that was constructive. Rosenberg said:

"In our dealings with each other and also with the producers, let's have a litle more earnestness and sincerity which should be the basis for business dealings, so that what we may accomplish will be fundamentally sound. I'm saying this before those who are representing big firms but it will be the basis of a speech I intend to make in the closed meeting which follows."

List of Speakers

Among the speakers called upon were Walter Brooks, M-G-M; Leon Bamberger, ROK-Radio; Earle Sweigert, Paramount; Arthur Greenblatt, Mongram; Bob Lippert, vice-president, Screen Guild Productions; Larry Woddin, Paul Mooney, National Screen Service, and A. W. Schwalberg, vice-president, Eagle-Lion Pictures.

The convention will be brought to a close tomorrow night with the annual banquet at which Luke Barnett will be toastmaster and Leo G. Griffith, one of Pittsburgh's outstanding civic leaders, the principal speaker. Preceding the banquet will be a closed session which will be addressed by Jack Kirsch, president of the Allied States Association of Motion Picture Exhibitors, and at which the officers for the ensuing year will be named. United Artists was host the opening day at a cocktail party.

Union Local to Hear Roosevelt Tonight

Elliott Roosevelt, who recently returned from Russia, will address a special membership meeting tonight at midnight of Local No. 306, Moving Picture Machine Operators Union, AFL, at Palm Garden here.

Harry Brandt, independent producer and president of the Independent Theatre Owners Association, will receive an honorary gold membership card in the local as a testimonial to his contributions to labor relations between the local and exhibitors, according to Herman Gelber, union president. Among the guests will be Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, regional director of the Social Security Board; Benjamin Fielding, New York City License Commissioner, and Samuel Wolchok, David Dubinsky and Alex Rose, union officials.

Charles Repass, Manager

HARTFORD, Jan. 22.—Funeral services for Charles Repass, a veteran of 37 years in the motion picture industry, who died at his home here on Tuesday, will be held Friday in Rocky Hill, Conn. Repass was manager of the Crown Theatre, Hartford, at the time of his death. He had managed the Crown 17 years.

1,500 Warner Workers Still in Armed Forces

Out of approximately 5,000 Warner employees inducted into various branches of the Armed Services since the start of World War II, nearly 1,700 are still in uniform. About 1,500 veterans have returned to the company to date.

There were 81 known battlefront casualties from the Warner ranks.

Coast Riots Bring New Control Bills

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 22.—Eleven bills resulting from a legislative investigation last year, of the "breakdown of law and order" in Los Angeles during the film jurisdictional strikes, have been introduced in the California legislature by Assemblyman C. Don Field of Glendale, and Senator George Hatfield of Merced.

The measures include technical changes in the penal and civil codes as follows: It would be a misdemeanor for any peace officer to organize or agree to join any labor organization, or contribute to its support, or for any person to threaten unlawful acts in connection with strikes; court orders could be served upon riotous assembly; provisions of the California Disaster Act would enable police of one city to receive assistance from police of other cities.

Publicists Agree To 6 New Clauses

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Screen Publicists Guild has approved a recommendation by its executive committee to undertake negotiations with producers for the inclusion of six additional clauses in the contract offered to members last November. The clauses, not affecting wage scales, are considered by the Guild to be essential to job security.

Action on proposals to end its affiliation with the Conference of Studio Unions was deferred for the present, with a new 10-man committee appointed to explore possibilities in this connection. A Guild executive said that the present affiliation will stand until and unless the committee selects another one acceptable to a majority of the membership.

Schwalberg Tours Pa. On New E-L Releases

Alfred W. Schwalberg, vice-president and general sales manager of Eagle-Lion Films, has concluded talks with Philadelphia and Harrisburg, circuit heads, and today will be in Pittsburgh to discuss future openings of Eagle-Lion pictures in circuits operating out of that territory.

Schwalberg is concentrating on Pennsylvania launchings of "Bedelia," which is already set for openings on Jan. 29 at the Senate Theatre in Harrisburg and the Astor, Reading. He will return to New York tomorrow.

Richard Rosenthal, 54

RKO Radio's foreign department here has received word of the death of Richard Rosenthal, 54, pioneer showman in Zurich, Switzerland, and manager of the Bellevue Theatre in that city.

Huges Asks Court To Dismiss Suits

Asking for a general dismissal of counter-claims raised by the Motion Picture Association in his suit against MPA, Howard Hughes yesterday filed in New York Federal Court a general denial of allegations made by MPA in asking for rejection of Hughes' anti-trust charges. Through the offices of Charles A. Poletti, attorney for Hughes Tool Co., Hughes reiterated his charges that the MPA, in the implementation of its production code and particularly the clauses calling for examination of exploitation and advertising matter to be used by its members, can thwart the potential success of a motion picture.

He pointed out that no unapproved first-class pictures have been shown in first-run, second or key houses since 1930, and that no film can be marketed successfully in he United States unless exhibited in those theatres. While admitting that some unapproved pictures have been given limited exhibition in the country, Hughes, who withdrew from the MPA over the association's objections to advertising matter to be used for "The Outlaw," denied that non-members of the MPA could obtain exhibition in theatres owned by member-distributors.

Fabricated Program Launched on Coast

LONG BEACH, Cal., Jan. 22.—R. H. McCullough, National Theatres' director of television and pre-fabricated theatres, tonight gave the principal address at a press preview of the Crest Theatre, explaining the construction of this first pre-fabricated house produced by Charles Skouras under an arrangement with Henry Kaiser. It is expected to result in a steady production of similar theatres on an assembly-line basis when required materials and facilities become available.

Following McCullough's address, the press was taken on an inspection tour of the premises. The party, transported from Hollywood by buses, numbered 250.

WB Ends Previews For Film Critics

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22.—The Stanley-Warner has incurred disfavor of local newspaper film critics with its decision to stop holding screen previews. Warner claims critics don't get the right slant in a "cold" screening room without an audience. Critics are complaining that no press previews makes it difficult meeting deadlines and means they often have to work on weekends and holidays.

The other first run houses of Fox and William Goldman are still previewing for the press.

Farris A. Jones, 52

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 22.—Farris A. Jones, vice-president of Motion Picture Advertising Co., died of a heart attack Saturday at his residence here. A native of Breckenridge, Missouri, Jones was 52 and had been in New Orleans 27 years. He is survived by his widow, a daughter, Lorys, his mother, Mrs. Grace Finley Jones Cosbey, and a brother, Arthur.

Charge UA Pacts Violate Trust Law

Harris Theatrical Enterprises, defendants in a percentage suit brought by United Artists, yesterday asked the New York Federal District Court for dismissal of the charges, alleging that the contracts on which they are based have been found to be in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Establishment of minimum admission prices, as well as illegal provisions regarding clearance, run and availability, are included in the agreements, attorney Philip B. Gale, counsel for Harris, declares in his answer to the UA allegations, adding that the distributor would not license any picture without "tie-ins."

At the same time, Gale asks for a jury trial, plus the right to examine six unnamed accountants, who, his brief says, looked over the company's records in 1945. Such examinations will show that there was no fraud, the defendants contend.

Harris Theatrical Enterprises controls the D.D.C.S. Theatre Operating Co., Dorset Amusement Corp., Hancock Amusement Corp., La Salle Amusement Corp., River Theatre Corp. and Gotham Theatre Corp.

275 at Testimonial For Harry Furst

More than 275 friends and business associates of Harry Furst, Universal salesman here for 30 years, who is retiring, joined in a tribute to him at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor yesterday. Furst was presented with a gold watch, a life membership in the Motion Picture Associates and a scroll signed by all of those present.

Harry Fellerman of the Universal sales organization was toastmaster. Dais guests included John J. O'Connor, E. T. Gomersall, William A. Scully, Oscar Lager, Edward Lachman, Jesse Stern, Sam Rinzler, Nat Goldber, David A. Levy and Mrs. Furst. Every circuit in the Metropolitan New York area was represented.

Vogel Conducts Loew Division Meeting

A combined meeting of Loew's out-of-town and New York division managers was held here yesterday at the Hotel Astor, with Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president in charge of Loew Theatres, presiding.

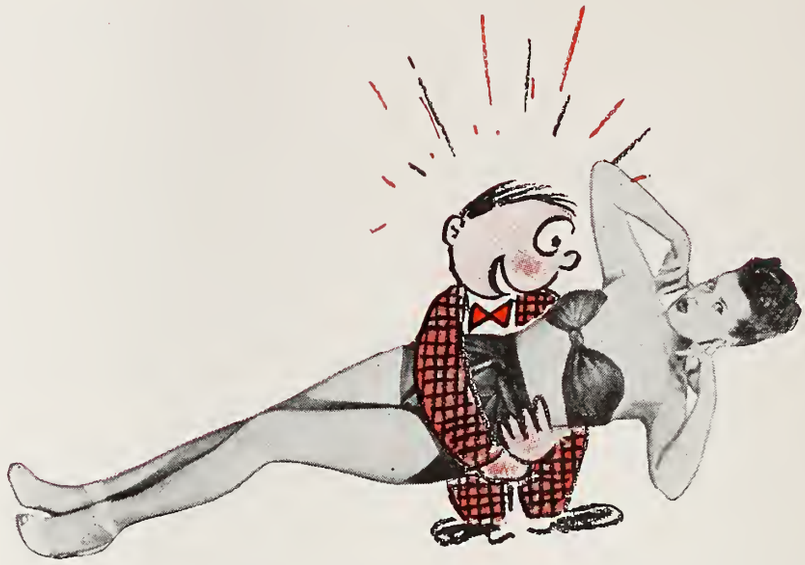
Meetings of the out-of-town men will continue through Friday, with campaigns for forthcoming pictures and general theatre operating problems being on the agenda. Among those in New York for the conferences: Carter Barron, Allen Sparrow, Harry Shaw, Martin Burnett, Charles Kurtzman, Mike Cullen and Charles Raymond.

Jackson Acting Mgr.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 22. — Charlie Jackson, veteran member of the Minneapolis Warner sales staff, has been named acting branch manager of the exchange, relieving Art Anderson, who leaves on an eight-week vacation tour of the South and Mexico.

Alabama House Fails

VINCENT, Ala., Jan. 22. — T. W. Williams' Vincent Theatre has been forced to close on account of a lack of business.



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YOU CAN START HUGGIN

THIS ONE

4th N.Y. Week! held again and held again in all openings!

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WITH S.Z. SAKALL · ALAN HALE · ANGELA GREENE · DONALD WOODS

and CARMEN CAVALLARO and ORCHESTRA

WARNERS'

"A GAL IN CALICO"

"OH, BUT I DO"

"THROUGH A THOUSAND DREAMS"

"THE TIME THE PLACE and THE GIRL"

"A RAINY NIGHT IN RIO"

"A SOLID CITIZEN OF THE SOLID SOUTH"

"I HAPPENED TO WALK DOWN FIRST STREET"

IN TECHNICOLOR

TERRIFIC TUNES BY ARTHUR SCHWARTZ & LEO ROBIN

Directed by DAVID BUTLER

Screen Play by Francis Swann, Agnes Christin Johnston & Lynn Starling • Original Story by Leonard Lee • Orchestral Arrangements by Ray Heindorf • Musical Sequences Created and Staged by LE ROY PRINZ

Produced by ALEX GOTTLIEB

THIS ONE!

A lu-lu for Lupino (she sings!)

Melodrama, Romance and Music--and a Smash!

IDA LUPINO ROBERT ALDA

ANDREA KING BRUCE BENNETT

IN THE WARNER HIT

"THE MAN I LOVE"

Directed by RAOUL WALSH

Produced by ARNOLD ALBERT

SCREEN PLAY BY CATHERINE TURNEY

ADAPTATION BY JO PAGANO AND CATHERINE TURNEY

FROM A NOVEL BY MARITTA WOLFF

Hear her singin'! 'The Man I Love' 'Just My Bill' 'Why Was I Born' 'Body and Soul'

Jack L. Warner, *Executive Producer*

Appeal Date

(*Continued from page* 1)

with Dec. 31, when the decree was handed down, but he added that the government does not want to run any risk of being too late.

Should the theatre-owning defendants, possibly desiring to appeal after the Department has done so, wait beyond March 1, it was said there may be some danger that the Supreme Court might decline to accept it on grounds that the questions raised in court here yesterday were not "substantial," as Rule 52-B says they must be, Wright told reporters. However, he was in agreement with a number of attorneys who held that the questions appeared quite substantial.

Thomas Turner Cooke of Universal is another who prefers not to take a chance. "If Mr. Wright files his appeal at three o'clock on March 2, I'll file mine at four o'clock," he declared.

Costs Cause Concern

Both Cooke and Wright appeared concerned over the financial and physical difficulties involved in printing the record of the trial, which an appeal will require. It contains more than 3,000 pages. Supreme Court rules call for 40 copies, but the jurists in Washington sometimes will accept as few as 20, the prosecuting attorney said. Remembering that the theatre-owning defendants had the record printed as the trial proceeded, Wright approached some of their counsel yesterday to see if enough of those copies to serve the purpose could not be rounded up. The Department, he said, has only two. The defense lawyers were noticeably noncommittal, replying only that the Government Printing Office should be equipped to do the job. Wright nodded but said the Washington presses are very busy these days. Later, however, he appeared reconciled to using the U. S. facilities.

Court Turns Cold Ear

(*Continued from page* 1)

to Washington and try to get the extra stay."

The court likewise was cool to the theatre-owning defendants' request that the ban on expansion of their holdings as exhibitors be modified to permit them to acquire houses for the purpose of entering competitive areas or protecting present investments. "We reserved jurisdiction in the decree," Judge Hand said. "That includes anything connected with the business. If this stiff arangement bears too hard on any situation, you could still come to the court and ask to have it modified."

Denial Indicated

He was even more firm in indicating a denial when attorney John F. Caskey of 20th Century-Fox, speaking also on behalf of Loew's, RKO, Paramount and Warners, asked for a period of two years in which to dissolve existing pools between any of these companies and independent exhibitors. "Those pools ought not to have been had," Judge Hand said. "The parties ought to have known enough."

When Thomas Turner Cooke, counsel for Universal, attempted to present his reasoning in favor of allowing that company to preserve its "show-window" rights by making franchise agrements of several years' duration with small independent exhibitors, Judge Hand interrupted the plea with: "We don't intend to have these long arguments. I think we've got your point."

An argument by Louis Frohlich of Columbia, who sought to have single sales stayed until after the Supreme Court rules, and one by Edward C. Raftery of United Artists, who opposed placing upon the distributor the burden of proving the legality of its contractual clearance provisions, were both presented briefly and accepted without comment by the court.

Wright's Stand

Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, opposing the suggested postponement of competitive bidding, said: "Our position is to see this provision given a trial in actual operation. You can't stay a part of Section Eight and have other parts operate effectively." Also opposing modification of the general ban on theatre expansion, Wright pointed out that the decree already contains "liberal exceptions" on this point—in that the theatre-owning defendants can expand by acquiring interests from their present partners and by replacing existing facilities as they abandon them or lose them through fires, expired leases or other causes.

Obviously displeased by Judge Hand's mention of the court's continued jurisdiction as leaving the way open for additional expansion in hardship cases, Wright declared: "If this provision doesn't mean what it says, I think the court should say so now."

Myron Sulzberger, Jr., representing independent stockholders who have a 50 per cent interest in Loew's White Plains Theatre, asked the court to hold a new hearing, with advance publicity, in order to give all persons who would be affected a chance to be heard "before the decree is put in final form." He pointed out that his clients were affected by the clause requiring the theatre-owning defendants to buy or sell out all but five per cent of their partnership holdings. Judge Hand replied: "The idea that we can't make a decree under the Sherman Act without bringing in stockholders and everybody else has been exploded and we don't intend to follow that path much farther."

General William J. Donovan of RKO presented arguments for modification of the expansion ban, citing Supreme Court rulings in the Crescent and Interstate cases and stating that his company, with 102 theatres, has none in the South outside of New Orleans, none in the Southwest or Northwest, and only two in California.

Whitney North Seymour of Paramount, supplementing Donovan's views, referred to the new United Nations home on the East River as a place where expansion may be needed and said the spread of the drive-in theatre idea may necessitate more activity in that field. "Paramount pictures," he added, "have been boycotted in some places where Paramount has no theatres."

Time Extension Sought

John W. Davis of Loew's argued for the time extensions asked by the theatre-owning defendants, and Joseph M. Proskauer of Warners urged that the defendants as exhibitors be found guilty only of "conspiring to receive discriminatory license privileges," rather than "conspiring in fixing minimum admission price, run, clearance and other license terms." He said this would reconcile one of the court's conclusions of law with one of its findings of fact, but Wright objected, contending that "the conclusion in its present form is a necessary consequence of the finding."

Attorney Sherman Rosenberg, appearing for Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, who was out of town, said his organization agrees that competitive bidding ought to be stayed pending Supreme Court action.

'Big 5' Won't Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

deals. Louis Frohlich of Columbia told the court his client would appeal from the competitive-bidding provisions. Following the hearing, Thomas Turner Cooke of Universal, and Robert L. Wright of the Department of Justice reiterated their previously-stated appeal plans.

FOR FOREIGN RIGHTS
20
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SERIALS
FILM RIGHTS EXPORT Corp.
1600 BROADWAY · NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS "FILMRIGHTS"

Attack Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

who in most cases have all their assets tied up in one little theatre, and have for years past helped in developing picture personalities. They have done the direct selling job of the industry and they are surprised and dismayed to now find that the business which they have built up is in [illegible]ve jeopardy because of the trend [illegible]ard higher and higher film rental.

"We have discussed the recent decree in detail here today, and the practical effects it will have upon our operations. For instance, if there is a theatre in a community that is adequate for the present and potential business, it is possible for any person, irresponsible and unscrupulous, or sincere and of good character to come into the community, build a theatre, equip it, and demand the right to bid on pictures, even though good business practice in the theatre business would indicate that the community could not afford a larger theatre capacity.

Would Increase Costs

"The competitive bidding would naturally increase film costs, *while at the same time the available business would be cut in half.* Under such circumstances both competitors would travel down the road of economic ruin to eventual destruction of one, or perhaps both, of them.

"We have hoped that the court's decision would return the independent exhibitor to a buyer's market, but instead find that it puts him almost at the complete mercy of the distributor. It gives the distributors power to get almost any amount of revenue that they may see fit to assess in a competitive situation, and now, even before the decree becomes effective, they are forcing higher prices in these situations through auction bidding.

"I predict, as an independent exhibitor, that unless the decree is modified, and some fair selling plan worked out, there will be an eventual complete divestiture of the defendants' theatre interests, and the entire industry will be under a Government commission," Thompson concluded.

Theatre Expansion

(*Continued from page* 1)

appearing in Federal District Court here as attorney for the theatre-owning defendants, sought modification of the final decree's expansion ban, said that, in his opinion, "the court cannot consider this motion until it has given notice to our membership as to what property rights are involved in Section III (4). That section enjoins each exhibitor defendant "from making or continuing leases of theatres under which it leases any of its theatres to another defendant or to an independent operating a theatre in the same competitive area in return for a share of the profits."

REEVES
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Complete Film and
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Production on Rise Again; Start on Five

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Production continues to climb as five new films reached camera stages, and three have gone to cutting rooms. Work has been resumed on Paramount's "Variety Girl," as well. The shooting index is now up to a total of 46 pictures in work; the production scene follows:

(Columbia)

Shooting: "The Crime Doctor's Vacation," "The Corpse Came C.O.D.," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman); "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier); "The Lady from Shanghai."

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

Independent

Finished: "Women in the Night" (Southern California Films).

M-G-M

Finished: "Green Dolphin Street."
Shooting: "The Hucksters," "Song of Love," "The Birds and the Bees," "To Kiss and to Keep."

Monogram

Started: "Tragic Symphony," with Frank Sundstrom, Audrey Long, Serge Krizman, Lester Sharpe, Jimmie Dodd.
Shooting: "Land of the Lawless," "Panic," "Black Gold."

Paramount

Shooting: "Variety Girl," "Road to Rio," "Saigon," "Albuquerque" (Clarion); "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

RKO Radio

Finished: "Magic Town" (Riskin).
Started: "Indian Summer," with Alexander Knox, Ann Sothern, George Tobias; "Under the Tonto Rim," with Tim Holt, Nan Leslie, Richard Martin, Richard Powers, Carol Forman.
Shooting: "If You Knew Susie."

Republic

Shooting: "Twilight on the Rio Grande," "Bells of San Angelo."

Selznick Releasing Organization

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Moss Rose," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Mother Wore Tights," "It's Only Human."

United Artists

Started: "Stork Bites Man," (Comet) with Jackie Cooper, Gene Roberts, Gus Schilling, Emory Parnell.
Shooting: "Body and Soul" (Enterprise); "Heaven Only Knows" (Nebenzal); "Copacabana" (Beacon); "Vendetta" (California); "The Other Love" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Shooting: "Time Out of Mind," "Buck Privates Come Home," "Ivy" (Interwood).

Warners

Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "Dark Passage," "Deep Valley," "The Woman in White," "Night Unto Night."

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Lord Tarleton
MIAMI BEACH
OCEAN FRONT • 40th to 41st Sts.
Reservations Invited • Walter Jacobs

US Films Maintain Hold in Belgium

By LOUIS QUIEVREUX

BRUSSELS, Jan. 17 (By Air Mail).—A review of the film year in Belgium shows that American pictures have steadily maintained the prominent position they enjoyed here for so many years before the war. At least 35 first class American pictures were exhibited here during the year, among them "The Dictator," "It Happened Tomorrow," "The Little Foxes," "The Moon and Sixpence," "Hellzapoppin," "Five Graves to Cairo" and "Arsenic and Old Lace."

The British film effort has been remarkable. Pictures like "The Way to the Stars," "Salute to John Citizen," "Murder in Reverse" and "Henry V" were shown in Belgium this year. Many of the critics felt that "Henry V" was by far the best film to come from any country.

France sent both good and bad, according to Francis Bolen, film critic of the weekly *Herbdo*. His award for the best French film went to "Children of Paradise."

SOPEG Will Induct Young, Others Today

Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, local No. 109, will induct new officers, an executive board and a trial board, at a membership meeting to be held here tonight at the Hotel Capitol. High point on the agenda will be a report on the recent meeting of the UOPWA national general executive board, the salary policy agreed upon, and its effect on SOPEG's future negotiations.

Officers to be inducted are: President, Sidney Young; vice-president, Norman Hasselo; secretary-treasurer, Otto Langer; recording secretary, Jeanne Forestier.

Claims New Method For Television Ads

The opening of what was described as the first agency to produce and place both television shows and commercials has been announced here by Barney Sackett, general manager of the new firm of Sackett and Prince, Television Productions, New York City. The firm said it plans to introduce new techniques designed to exploit the full possibilities of video as an advertising as well as an artistic medium, Sackett said more than 18 shows are planned for 1947.

Variety Election

OMAHA, Jan. 22.—New Variety Club officials are to be selected Saturday. The crewmen who will pick the new leaders are: Eugene Blazer, Meyer Stern, Ted Emerson, Donald Shane, Glen Rogers, Jack Renfro, G. E. (Jerry) McGlynn, Edward Shafton, Frank Hannon and H. B. Johnson.

Momand Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

course of the trial that he was forced to relinquish his theatres due to inability to obtain product. His houses were located in Shawnee, Waywoka, Holdensville, Hartshorne, Clinton, Alva and Pawhuska, all in Oklahoma.

The defendants are Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Warners, Loew's, RKO Radio, Columbia, United Artists and Universal. Griffith Amusement was named in the original action, which, after lengthy litigation, was dismissed in July, 1936, by the Federal Court in Oklahoma City.

Appeal Taken

An appeal was taken to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, which resulted in a dismissal but without prejudice, thereby allowing a renewal of the suit after technical changes in the petition.

Earlier, in a separate action, the Oklahoma Federal Court ordered a $41,000 judgment against Paramount and one of $6,900 against Griffith.

The present case went to trial Jan. 6 after many proceedings concerning the validity of the plaintiff's claim.

Wartime Excises

(*Continued from page* 1)

rates would drop to pre-war levels next July 1 under President Truman's recent declaration ending hostilities.

Continuation of existing rates, Chairman Knutson (R-Minn.) of the Ways and Means Committee said, will bring in $1,130,000,000 in Federal revenues next year which will be lost if the tax rates drop.

Paramount Video

(*Continued from page* 1)

telecasts in Chicago from its B. and K. video outlet.

Among those on hand for the event were Cecil B. DeMille; George Shupert, assistant to Paul Raibourn, head of the company's television operations; Klaus Landsberg, KTLA manager; Mrs. Eileen Heineman, assistant state superintendent of public education.

The program broadcast featured Bob Hope, William Bendix, John Brown, Eddie Bracken, Jerry Colonna, William Demarest, and others.

Greek Orphans' Drive

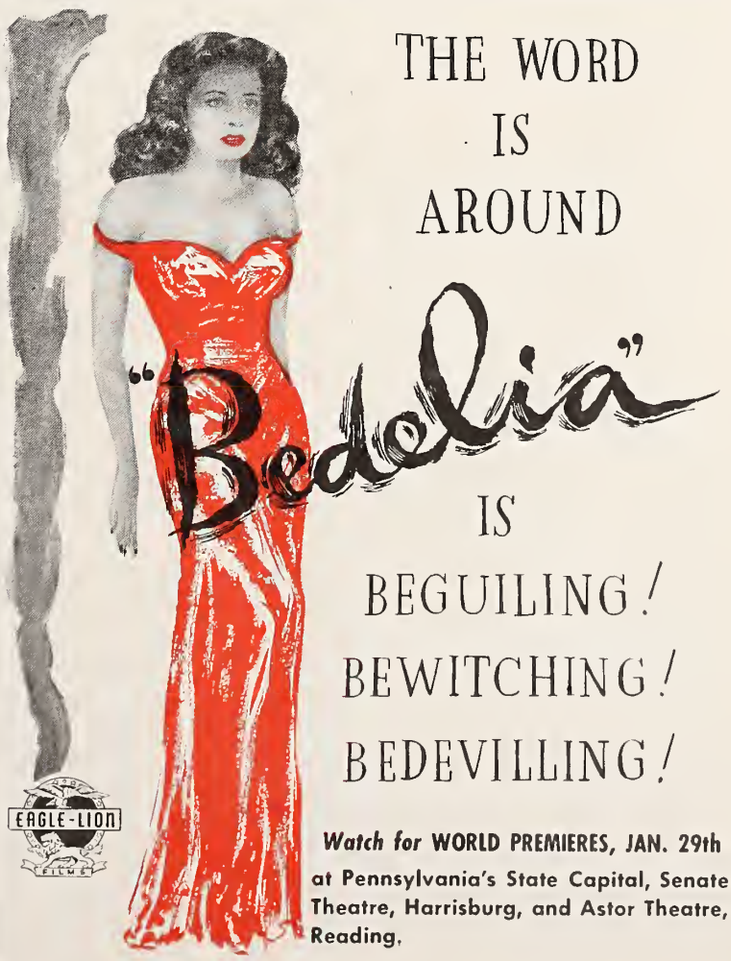
(*Continued from page* 1)

committee; the exhibitors' committee consists of Fred Wehrenberg, president, MPTOA; Robert H. Poole, president Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Exhibitors; Harry Brandt, president, Independent Theatre Owners Association; Robert Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association. Harry Kalmine has been named treasurer of the drive with Ben Serkowich and S. Barret McCormick co-chairmen of the publicity committee.

Bernhard Heads FC

(*Continued from page* 1)

FC has acquired three additional exchanges of its own, at Portland, Seattle and Washington. This brings to 10 the number of exchanges owned and operated by the company. Elsewhere, Classics product is distributed by state-right franchise holders.



Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

PHILADELPHIA

"Till the Clouds Roll By" is breaking records at the Mastbaum this week. Estimated grosses for the week ending Jan. 21-23:

THE WICKED LADY (U)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $14,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,250)
MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $22,800)
THE FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Earl Carroll Vanities. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,800)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $28,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. Average: $26,000)
RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,800)
THE KILLERS (U)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gros: $8,000. (Average: $6,500)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $57,000. (Average: $28,300)
HENRY V (U)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $24,900)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,200)

BOSTON

Theatre business here held steadily despite rain and bad traveling conditions. The general opinion locally is that films are getting the best business in the entertainment field. All other branches of the field are in the throes of a slump. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10). Stage show: Andrews Sisters and other acts. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $27,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,900)
MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) and LITTLE MISS BIG (U)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $19,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) and FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $26,300. (Average: $25,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $23,500)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,100)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,900)

SAN FRANCISCO

Business here jogged along satisfactorily this week, especially for "Humoresque," which grossed a solid $30,000. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 24:

SWELL GUY (U)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000)
THE SHOCKING PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $32,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. With vaudeville. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $32,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $6,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $23,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000.
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE (1,459) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $13,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $14,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $14,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $27,000)

BALTIMORE

First-run grosses are holding up better than had been expected. Figures are above average and managers are pleased to report improved matinee attendance. Nothing is offering any outside competition and weekend weather gave a splendid start for the seven-day period. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 23:

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)
TEMPTATION (U)—KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. Average: $12,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $17,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week; with a stage show. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER (Siritzky)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500)
THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.) — MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days. Gross: $5,750. (Average: $6,000)

CINCINNATI

"Two Years Before the Mast" is heading for a high-bracket figure at the RKO Palace, while most other product, both new arrivals and holdovers, are registering plus-average returns. Weather is unseasonably warm. Estimated returns for the week ending Jan. 21-24:

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000)
RUSTLER'S ROUNDUP (U) and LIGHTHOUSE (PRC) — RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,850. (Average: $1,600)
YOUTH ON TRIAL (Col. reissue) and UNWRITTEN CODE (Col. reissue) — RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,300. (Average: $1,100)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000 (Average: $8,000)
SWELL GUY (U)—KEITH'S (1,500) (30c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $7,500)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—(RKO LYRIC) (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week on a moveover from the Shubert after two weeks at the Grand. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,000)
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-65c-65c-70c-75c) 3rd week on a moveover after two weeks at the Palace. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000)

BUFFALO

Although two theatres did better than average, a majority have suffered froma blizzard and several days of extreme cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 25:

THE MAN I LOVE (WB) and FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,000
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB) — GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $23,200. (Average: $18,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and THE MISSING LADY (Mono.)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on a moveover. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $10,000)
HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC) and GAS HOUSE KIKDS (PRC) — LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $14,300. (Average: 15,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on a moveover. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO-Radio) — TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,000)

CLEVELAND

Business continues at a high peak, with the weather favorable and competition from the legitimate theatre, burlesque and hockey games average. "Gangs, Inc.," proved to be a big surprise, rolling up an unusual $13,500 at Loew's Ohio. Holdovers, including "Till the Clouds Roll By," "The Razor's Edge" and "Henry V" are maintaining upper bracket business stature. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 21-22:

GANGS, INC. (Film Classics)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $7,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,800)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000).
HENRY V (UA)—LOWER MALL (500) ($1.25-$2.50) 7 days, 4th week. Two-a-day. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,000)
TEMPTATION (U)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $21,400)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—WARNERS HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross :$18,000. (Average: $22,600)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,650)

KANSAS CITY

The week started cold and blustery, with the weather generally turning out to be favorable. Relatively little competition appeared from attractions outside the film field. First-runs had a good week, but not extraordinary, and they cooperated in buying radio time for announcing attractions several times a day on several stations to make up for the absence of newspaper advertising. The Kansas City *Star* stopped publishing due to a strike and picketing by carriers. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 21-23:

THE DARK MIRROR (U-I) — ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,750)
GALLANT BESS (M-G-M) and THE COCKEYED MIRACLE (M-G-M)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
BRINGING UP FATHER (Mono.) and MY DOG SHEP (Screen Guild)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days, with stage show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,000)

DENVER

Business here this week has been "good" to "big" at all first-runs. The National Western Stockshow hurt somewhat, but theatre business snapped up over the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 22:

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days after two weeks each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox) — DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,500)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $15,500)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE VAMPIRE'S GHOST (Rep. reissue) and VALLEY OF THE ZOMBIES (Rep.)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

With few exceptions, Loop grosses are running at average or better. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 23:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CENTURY (1,600) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,500)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,400)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $18,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week on moveover from RKO Orpheum. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,500)
NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN (U)—WORLD (350) (50c-90c) 7 days 2nd week on moveover from RKO Pan. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,500)

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 17 — NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1947 — TEN CENTS

MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA,
28 WEST 44TH ST., 21ST FL.
NEW YORK, N. Y.
(6 COPIES)

Names . . . *in Today's News*

SAM DEMBOW, JR., has become sales representative for the Borros Morros-William LeBaron Federal Pictures, which distributes through United Artists. Dembow, as a result, has formed Producers Service, Inc. as his operating organization and intends to open offices in New York. Producers Morros and LeBaron are now preparing their next production, "Babes in Toyland."

Sam Dembow

Dembow still is president of Golden Productions, Inc. He returned to New York from the Coast yesterday.

Charles Schlaifer Elected Head of Eastern PIC

Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity for 20th Century-Fox, yesterday was elected chairman of the Eastern Public Information Committee, to succeed Paul Lazarus, Jr., of United Artists, at a meeting at the Hotel Astor, here. The group comprises advertising - publicity heads of the distributor companies and concerns itself with general industry promotional matters. The chairmanship on a rotating basis, changes every six months.

Charles Schlaifer

Glendon Allvine, public information director for the Motion Picture Association in New York, continues as executive secretary.

Schwartz, Ptak, Erdmann, And Scoville Reelected

CLEVELAND, Jan. 23.—Ernest Schwartz today was re-elected by acclamation to serve his 14th year as president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association.

All other officers were also re-elected by acclamation, including vice-president Albert E. Ptak, secretary George W. Erdmann and treasurer James E. Scoville. Elected to the board were Max Lefkowich, Ted Vermes, Frank Gross, Ed Bleier, Henry Barden and Frank Poroszinski.

PCCITO Lays Out Enforcement Plans Based on Decree

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 23.—At its meeting here today the PCCITO reiterated the stand it took at a trustee meeting in August, 1946, which was stated in the CIEAA brief submitted as *amicus curiae* on the New York decree hearing.

In addition, the PCCITO passed a resolution recommending that its four territorial units should establish committees for enforcement of the decree. Attending the meetings here were Mrs. Sam Gillette of Tooele, Utah, J. H. Moran of Laurel, Mont., Ralph

(*Continued on page 7*)

Odell Heads Para. Press Department

Promotion of C. N. Odell to head a newly-created press department in a realignment of Paramount's home office promotional set-up following Al Wilkie's resignation as Eastern publicity manager was announced here yesterday by Curtis Mitchell, publicity, advertising, and exploitation director. Odell, who joined Paramount in 1931, formerly was in charge of newspaper contacts.

Gordon Swarthout, formerly director of special events, has become co-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Schine Case Seen Divorcement Test

Washington, Jan. 23. — A Justice Department attorney expressed the belief today that the Supreme Court appeal of Schine Chain Theatres may provide the real test on theatre divorcement.

The attorney said that if the Supreme Court upholds the Buffalo Federal Court in the Schine case he believes the impending Government appeal on divorcement in the industry anti-trust suit also will be successful. Conversely, if the Supreme Court reverses the Schine divestiture order, chances of a Government victory in the industry case would be lessened. In that case the Government might abandon its appeal for divorcement and settle for a ban on cross-licensing of affiliated theatres.

Johnston, Others Promote Air Series

A number of film stars and writers, directors and executives of both radio and motion pictures, including Eric A. Johston, president of the Motion Picture Association, will join in a new Mutual network weekly dramatic series, entitled "The Family Theatre," dealing for the most part with post-war problems, "both social and

(*Continued on page 7*)

March of Dimes Starts In Film Theatres Today

The March of Dimes drive of the motion picture division starts today, with between 7,000 and 8,000 theatres taking collections at every performance. The drive will continue through Jan. 30th.

Emil Jensen

Emil C. Jenson, Director of the Motion Picture Division, yesterday expressed gratification with the results and with the cooperation of so many exhibitors, producers, distributors, and others in the industry.

"The success of the division's cam-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Intervention Denial Formalized by Court

Petitions of the American Theatres Association and the Confederacy of Southern Associations to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit were formally denied by an order which Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright filed in U. S. District court here yesterday.

This action, supplementing an earlier denial notation made on the petitions, had been requested by counsel for the exhibitor groups in order to facilitate appeal of the action to the Supreme Court in Washington.

$18,691,533 Is Loew's Net For the Year

Equals $3.66 per Share; $3,650,976 Quarter Net

Loew's annual report to stockholders, issued here yesterday, shows a net income of $18,691,533 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1946, after provision for depreciation, taxes and all other deductions. This is equivalent to $3.66 per share on 5,100,327 shares. It includes $732,588 for Loew's portion of the net undistributed income of partly-owned corporations. Net transferred to surplus is $17,958,945.

The company's corresponding net income for the previous fiscal year was $13,199,925, equivalent to $2.61

(*Continued on page 7*)

Warner Vote on 5 Directors Feb. 18

Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles S. Guggenheimer, Samuel Schneider and Morris Wolf have been renominated to the Warner Bros. board of directors and will come up for election at the annual stockholders' meeting at Wilmington, Del., on Feb. 18, according to a proxy statement received yesterday from Robert W. Perkins, secretary of the company.

Remuneration of the company's officers and directors for the fiscal year

(*Continued on page 7*)

Forum Proposal Is Endorsed by ITOA

A resolution favoring a meeting of all branches of the industry to establish the Motion Picture Forum proposed by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, was adopted by the ITOA of New York at a meeting in the Astor Hotel here yesterday. Harry Brandt presided.

Other exhibitor organizations were urged by the resolution to get behind

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"Boomerang" and "Blind Spot" are reviewed on page 6.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

BOB O'DONNELL, Bill McCraw, Sam Dembow, Net Shugrue, Bill Kupper, Walter Brown and many other ardent Variety Club members are arriving back in these United States from the Mexico City inauguration of Variety with fresh memories of the climactic bullfight which they attended last Sunday afternoon, during which 75,000 over-enthusiastic Mexicans, not satisfied with an amazing performance by Manolete, Spain's leading bullfighter, who was gored by a bull, rioted all over the place because of their displeasure with the tame performances of subsequent matadors. At one point the thousands became so unruly they actually threw their pillows at the matadors and picadors!

In the U. S. we thow pop bottles.

▽

The five newsreels this week pictorially report considerably on the gubernatorial mess in Georgia. Not reported is the classical opening of Supreme Court at Marietta, Georgia, and the Reverend J. C. Collumn's prayer for Divine guidance, concluded with the urgent request that "God bless all our governors"!

▽

At one time Nova Scotia exported to New England large quantities of potatoes, one variety of which was bluish in color at one end. These potatoes were called bluenoses and the nickname eventually was applied to people who raised them. Bluenoses these days are persons who raise sympathy against Sunday film performances.

▽

National Broadcasting Company inter-office memo sheets have printed thereon the following to be checked for notation: Approval, Attach File and Return, Budget Data, Comment, Compliance, Copy of Reply, Files, Your Information, Investigation, Note and Pass On, Note and Return, Present Status, Recommendations, Reply Direct, Reply for My Signature, See Me, Signature, Suggest Reply, Suitable Action, etc., etc.

▽

***Two Favorite Fruits:* The California Cling-Peach Advisory Board will help Paramount promote "My Favorite Brunette."**

▽

Some playful Mexicans resented the intrusion of police of Mexico City in their efforts to lynch the manager and staff of the Cine Cesar because power failed in the theatre, stopping the performance.

▽

Hollywood has devised many a queer quirk to determine audience reactions at "sneak" previews, but the topper of all comes from the Paramount studio, where sound-head Loren L. Ryder has devised a small electronic device to record a patron's heartbeat and rate of breathing as scenes of love, violence and excitement unfold upon the screen. The instruments will be placed UNDER the seats!

Personal Mention

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, Loew's president, returned to New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

MAX ROTH, Eastern sales manager for PRC, returned to Chicago from New York yesterday, and JAMES HENDEL, district manager, left here for his Pittsburgh headquarters yesterday.

•

NEIL AGNEW, president of the Selznick Releasing Organization, and MILTON KUSELL, general sales manager, have left the Coast for New York.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, assistant to William A. Scully, Universal distribution vice-president, will leave here today for Detroit.

•

GERALD MAYER, head of the Motion Picture Association international division, has left here for Washington and will return over the weekend.

•

EDWARD L. HYMAN, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., and JERRY ZIGMOND will leave here Sunday for Cincinnati.

•

EDWARD M. SCHNITZER, United Artists Eastern sales manager, has returned here from a week in Canada.

•

DAVID D. HORNE, assistant treasurer of Monogram-International, will leave New York on Sunday for Mexico City.

•

JOSEPHINE R. DELL'ARIA, of the Paramount International translation department, will be married to PETER JOHN FERRONE, draftsman, tomorrow.

•

MATTHEW J. FOX, United World board chairman, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, has returned here from St. Louis.

•

WILLIAM G. BRENNER, in charge of M-G-M checking, has returned here from a visit to Mideast exchanges.

•

WALTER BROOKS, assistant to H. M. RICHEY, will return here today from Pittsburgh.

•

W. C. DEVRY, president of the De Vry Corp., Chicago, is on a tour of the South.

•

BERNARD R. GOODMAN, supervisor of Warner exchanges, left here last night for Dallas.

•

LOUIS FROHLICH of Schwartz & Frohlich, will return here today from Providence, R. I.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, returns here today from St. Louis.

•

EMERSON YORKE, producer, and MRS. YORKE are leaving here over the weekend for Memphis.

STEVE BROIDY, president of Monogram and Allied Artists, will leave here tomorrow for the Coast.

•

ART ANDERSON, Minneapolis branch manager for Warners, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence by the company due to ill health. CHARLES JACKSON will function as acting branch manager.

•

MAX RABINOWITH, musical supervisor at the RKO-Radio studios in Hollywood, and BARBARA STUART of Albany, N. Y., were married Jan. 18 in Los Angeles.

•

ALVIN HATCH, owner of the Half-Moon Bay Theatre, San Francisco, has been elected chairman of the board of supervisors of San Mateo County.

•

STANLEY MEYER and his bride, the former DORIS BLUMBERG, changed their honeymoon plans and have flown to South America instead of sailing for Europe.

•

CARL NATER, director of the educational film division of Walt Disney Studios, has arrived here from Hollywood.

•

EUGENE KLINE, attorney with Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, and MRS. KLINE are the parents of a second son, THOMAS RUSSELL.

•

ROY MOORE, with the Schine Theatre at Bucyrus, Ohio, was married recently in Greenup, Ky., to JUANITA MYERS.

•

MALCOLM KINGSBERG, RKO Theatres president, who is at present vacationing on the Coast, will return to New York on Feb. 12.

•

MONROE GREENTHAL, head of the motion picture advertising agency bearing his name, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

ROY HAINES, Western division sales manager for Warners, is in San Francisco and will return here next week.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president in charge of sales, will leave New York at the end of the month for a studio visit.

•

HERMAN BECKER of the Rugoff and Becker Circuit, is in Florida from New York.

•

JOE WILLARD, attorney for Vanguard Films, and MRS. WILLARD have returned to New York from the Coast.

•

FRED FINKELHOFFE, Universal-International producer, is in New York from Hollywood.

•

P. E. ESSICK and HOWARD REIF of the Scoville, Essick and Reif Circuit, Cleveland, have left there for Miami.

•

ROBERT BENJAMIN, Eagle-Lion president, is due to return to New York from the Coast tomorrow.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATI

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HELD OVER! 'The JOLSON STORY' In TECHNICOLOR Larry PARKS Evelyn KEYES
IN PERSON BARRY GRAY LIONEL KAYE JOHNNY DOWNS BONNIE BAKER

Loretta Young · David Niven
in HAL WALLIS production
The Perfect Marriage
A Paramount Picture
in Person THE MILLS BROS. OLGA SAN JUAN TIM HERBERT · ELLIOT LAWRENCE and His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 50th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

JAMES CAGNEY in
'13 RUE MADELEINE'
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus on Stage—GRACIE FIELDS
Extra! ARTHUR BLAKE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

WB Memphis Meeting

MEMPHIS, Jan. 23.—Warner Theaters executives met in Memphis this week. James Cotton, zone manager of Chicago; Alex Halperin, head booker, Chicago; M. D. Brazee, district manager, Oklahoma City, and I. H. Barron, contact manager, Chicago, were the visiting officials. J. H. McCarthy, manager of the Warner Theatre, Memphis, was host.

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"13 RUE MADELEINE"

AT THE ROXY, N.Y., IS BLASTING SKY-HIGH THE BOXOFFICE RECORDS OF SUCH GREAT MONEY-GETTING ATTRACTIONS AS "MARGIE", "SMOKY", "STATE FAIR", "A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN" AND "THE HOUSE ON 92nd STREET"!

No Company Ever Had So Many Great Attractions Playing and on the way as

20th CENTURY-FOX

"THE RAZOR'S EDGE" · "THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" *In Technicolor*
"BOOMERANG!" · "CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" *In Technicolor*
"THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" · "THE HOMESTRETCH" *In Technicolor*

AMPTO of W.Penn. Conclude Meeting

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23.—The Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania have re-elected all officers at their 25th annual convention, which was brought to a close in the William Penn Hotel here tonight.

They are Morris M. Finkel, president; Fred A. Beedle, vice-president; Fred J. Herrington, secretary, and Joseph Gollman, treasurer. The nominating committee, of which Glenn Carruthers was chairman, named Norman Mervis, Lee Conrad and George J. Corcoran to fill vacancies on the board for directors for a three-year term. Retiring directors were Bonnett Amdur, Carl A. Poke and Corcoran. Harry Hendel and Ray Allison were nominated from the floor but lost out in the voting. Other directors are M. A. Rosenberg, chairman; William J. Blatt, H. Goldberg, Dr. C. E. Herman, Frank Janoplos, Israel Roth and William J. Walker. William R. Wheat, Jr., has retired.

At today's closed session, guest speakers were Jack Kirsch, Allied president, and David Palfreyman of the Motion Picture Association.

In his remarks, Palfreyman said: "We of the theatre are more than willing to carry our share of taxes, but we should not be singled out and hit with special taxes just because we are movie people. There are twenty-eight states and hundreds of cities which appear to be battling to see who can grab off the major part of admission taxes. The Federal tax collected from movie houses during 1946 was more than the entire production cost of all pictures made in Hollywood last year. That is a situation that you must give some thought to because if you don't contact your senators and congressman, the whole tax business is going to get out of hand."

A capacity crowd attended the banquet. Luke Barnett was toastmaster and Leo G. Griffith, one of Pittsburgh's outstanding civic leaders, was a speaker. In thanking the delegates for their support and confidence. Finkel said he hoped to return from the meeting of the National Allied in Washington next week with many answers to current problems.

Schlaifer to Coast For Product Talks

Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, will leave here today for the Coast to confer with Spyros P. Skouras, president; Darryl F. Zanuck, production vice-president, and Harry Brand, studio publicity chief, on advertising plans for several of the company's forthcoming pictures. He will be accompanied by Louis Shanfield, art director, who will join the discussions on special art to be created for the "Forever Amber" advertising campaign.

Schlaifer will remain at the studio one week and on his return to New York he will stop off at San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Denver to hold meetings with the company's field exploitation men. On these stops he also will confer with key exhibitors on local advertising plans for productions which 20th-Fox has scheduled for 1947.

Parking Affecting Theatres, Says ARB

Washington, Jan. 23.—It is the duty of municipal governments to correct the serious parking problem in some downtown areas which now causes people to attend theatres and purchase commodities in outlying sections, the American Road Builders' Association declared here today.

Calling the parking problem "A City's Headache", the Association urged special municipal parking centers to handle downtown theatre and retail patrons. The parking situation in the evening is "even worse" when several good films are showing, it was said.

Paramount Heads to Production Confabs

Adolph Zukor, board chairman, and other Paramount executives will leave here tonight for the Coast to join Barney Balaban, president, and studio officials in a series of conferences on both domestic and foreign production. Balaban, now in Miami, will leave for the Coast Sunday night. Frank Farley, European production representative, left here for the studios yesterday.

The New York contingent includes Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution; George Weltner, head of Paramount International; Russell Holman, Eastern production chief; Alan Jackson, story editor here; Curtis Mitchell, advertising-publicity director, and J. E. Perkins, chairman and managing director for Paramount in Great Britain.

Katherine Randall Is PRC Drive Winner

Katherine Randall, PRC booker-salesman in the Memphis office, has won the five-week booker-sales drive sponsored by the company. The Memphis branch is managed by Leonard Shea.

Final standing of other top branches follows: Milwaukee, New Haven, St. Louis, Charlotte, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Washington, Omaha, Buffalo. By divisions, final standing was: First, Grover Parsons' Southern; second, Abbott Swartz's Northwestern; third, Al Herman's New England; fourth, William Sherman's Midwestern; fifth, Beverly Miller's Western; sixth, Fred Rohrs' Mid-Atlantic; seven, Joe Miller's New York; eighth, James Hendel's Ohio Valley.

Loren Ryder Named President of SMPE

Loren L. Ryder, Paramount studio sound executive, was installed as president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at a meeting of its board of governors held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, here, yesterday.

Donald E. Hyndman, SMPE's outgoing president, officiated at the induction of Ryder, former executive vice-president, who was elevated to the presidency at the Society's October meeting in Hollywood.

Industry Leaders To Beatty Rites

DETROIT, Jan. 23.—Funeral services for Edward C. Beatty, president of the W. S. Butterfield Theatres, Inc., who died here on Tuesday, will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral tomorrow afternoon. Interment will follow at the White Chapel Mausoleum here. Scores from the industry here and elsewhere will attend.

Honorary pall bearers will be: Earl Hudson, president of United Detroit Theatres; Monty Gowthorpe and Austin Keough, Paramount; Leslie Thompson, RKO; and L. E. Gordon, Edward Ellsworth, Al Zimmerman, H. Leightner, F. O'Brien, M. H. Starr, G. W. Trendle, B. Schumaker, W. T. Burke, Miles Wyman, William Ruble, Howard Mikelson, Joe Deinston, Henry Carley, Allen Johnson, J. Schram, Paul Schlossman, F. Butterfield and Robert Newman, who are also friends and business associates of the deceased.

Others from out-of-town who will attend the funeral sercices are: John Maloney, M-G-M, Pittsburgh; Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox vice-president; Jules Levy of 20th-Fox's home office publicity department; Manny Gottlieb, Universal, Chicago; E. T. Gomersall, Universal, New York; Nat Levy, RKO Radio, New York; Milt Cohen, RKO, Cleveland; Robert S. Mochrie, RKO Radio, New York.

Easy to Move, Erect Prefashioned House

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—The Crest Theatre at Long Beach could be taken down in one month, shipped to a new location and re-assembled—ready for operation—in 90 days, according to R. H. McCullough, designer.

Long Beach was selected as the first site for erecting a pre-fashioned theatre, said McCullough, because the city, due to earthquake history, has the strictest building code in the U. S.

National Theatres executives declined state the cost of the Crest, but said figures, which will be released when compiled, will show the house can be built by this method for about 40 p. c. less than otherwise.

Gruenberg to Toronto For 'Depinet' Meet

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—Len S. Gruenberg, captain of the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive," will meet with personnel of the local RKO Radio exchange tomorrow. Jack Bernstein, manager, will preside at the meeting, which will be attended by M. G. Poller, home office sales executive, and Leo M. Devaney, Canadian division sales manager, who will also be present at a Drive meeting in Montreal on Sunday. M. L. Devaney is manager of the latter exchange.

Navy Cites U.A.

United Artists has been awarded a "Certificate of Achievement" from the U. S. Bureau of Naval Personnel in recognition of outstanding services rendered to Navy men during World War II. The presentation will be made at the Naval Motion Picture Exchange in Brooklyn during the week of Feb. 3, with Navy dignitaries in attendance.

U.S. Films Superior To Europe's: Mayer

"The reason why British and French pictures playing in America seem so good is because they have been 'screened' over there before being sent to the United States," Arthur Mayer, New York theatre owner and American Red Cross deputy commissioner, who recently returned here from a two-month tour of Europe, maintains.

Europe's run-of-the-mine pictures are definitely inferior to Hollywood's, Mayer said. During his stay in Europe, Mayer viewed many films in addition to surveying Red Cross installations for a report on the advisability of their maintenance, the main purpose of his trip. He said he cannot see comparisons made by American critics between American and European pictures.

'It's a Joke' Makes Dual Bow in Austin

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 23.—The world premiere of Eagle-Lion's first film, "It's a Joke, Son," starring Kenny Delmar (Senator Claghorn), here last night, originally scheduled for the Paramount Theatre, also opened at the State Theatre to handle overflow crowds, with Hollywood personalities, headed by Bryan Foy, E-L production vice-president, participating in the ceremonies.

Foy and the stars were guests of Gov. Beauford H. Jester, whose inauguration took place simultaneously with the opening of the picture. The contingent included June Lockhart, Una Merkel, Frances Langford, Jon Hall, Andy Russell, Tom Conway, Jane Darwell, Kenny Farrell, Benny Rubin, Sheila Ryan, Lois Andrews and Steve Brodie.

Hughes Elected by American Writers

Rupert Hughes has been elected president of the American Writers Association, succeeding Dr. John Erskine, first head of the organization, who has been named honorary president.

The association was formed last September by opponents of an American Writers Authority plan advanced by James M. Cain, involving the lease rather than sale of literary properties to film companies, as also supported by the Screen Writers Guild.

Californians Ask Studio Red Probe

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Rep. John Rankin (Miss.), said today he has a petition containing "thousands of names" of Californians who demand an immediate investigation into communism in Hollywood by the Un-American Activities Committee.

Rankin believes the West Coast probe should "head the list" of committee investigations. It is indicated, however, that other studies will come first, with the Hollywood investigation near the bottom of the list.

Myers' Leg Mending

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board of directors of Allied States, has had the plaster case removed from his broken leg and is expected to return to his office within a week.

AN INVITATION TO THE INDUSTRY

Mr. Charles P. Skouras
cordially invites you to view the
World's First
Pre-fashioned Theatre...

The Crest

Atlantic Boulevard and Burlinghall Road
North Long Beach, California

THEATRE OF 303 WONDERS

For your convenience:
Specially conducted tours between 10 A.M. and noon daily. For cards of admission write or phone R. H. McCullough, REpublic 4111, National Theatres Amusement Co., Inc., 1609 West Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 7, Cal.

THE WORLD'S FIRST PRE-FASHIONED THEATRE! • Pre-designed, pre-styled, and built with tomorrow's techniques, the Crest is an accomplished fact. First of the many that can be fashioned in the future with production line techniques and economy, it is a theatre of many wonders. • All steel frame; fibreglass wall panels; earthquake-proof; fireproof; orthoscope projection; curtains of spun glass; transvox sound; galbestos roof; television tower; plastic light coves; air-cooled davenports; germ-proofed air; no-glare lighting; snap-on decorations; prefabricated projection booth panel. • *These, and many other revolutionary features, stamp it as the Theatre of The Future.*

Short Subjects

"A Nation Is Born"

(*This Is America*) (*RKO Radio*)

The transition of the Philippine Islands from an American possession to a nation in its own right, with its own traditions and its own national pride, is recounted in Frederic Ullman, Jr.'s current "This is America" short. Backbone of the process, which helped to prepare the natives for independence, was a one-room schoolhouse which taught old and young, and was fostered by American volunteers who braved the jungles, tropical diseases and poverty to bring elementary courses as well as the story of liberty to the people. Narration is by Ken Smith; the photography is striking. Running time, 20 minutes.

Palestine's First Processed in U.S.

By IBRAHIM ZEIN

JAFFA, Jan. 16 (By Air Mail).—The first complete Palestinian (Jewish) feature, produced by Palestinian Films, was finished recently and negatives have been sent to the U. S. for processing. The screenplay was done by Meyer Levin, the director, assisted by Herbert Klein. The film will reportedly be ready for public showing in the U. S. by March.

The picture has English dialogue. Leading roles were taken by Isaac Denziger and Irene Broza, who both came from Egypt for the film.

The story tells of a Polish boy who, after escaping from the Nazis, reaches Palestine. Most of the plot thereafter deals with his new life in a Jewish commune. Many of the scenes were shot in Jerusalem, Haifa, in the Tel-Aviv streets and at historical places. Palestinian Films was incorporated in the U. S. and 40 per cent of the shares were sold in Palestine.

'Sinbad' Sets Record

RKO Radio's "Sinbad the Sailor" broke week-day opening records at the Palace Theatre here on Tuesday, with receipts of $8,350 topping the previous week-day opening record of $7,500 set by "Spanish Main," Ray Connor, manager of the theatre, announced yesterday.

Filmack Is Expanding

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—Filmack Trailers has purchased new laboratory equipment which will make possible the production of five times the company's present trailer output, according to Irving Mack.

Ready for immediate release

"BLACK STALLION"

Master of the wild horses.

MOTION PICTURE VENTURES, Inc.

1560 BROADWAY - N. Y. C.

BR. 9-4950

Reviews

"Boomerang"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

"BOOMERANG," Louis de Rochemont's third application of quasi-documentary technique, is a human document which synthesizes the qualities which make "The March of Time" the popular entertainment-educational medium that it is with a penetrating story. Told with editorial candor, it is the portrayal of an unsolved murder in Connecticut and the political chicanery which was the backdrop for a spectacular trial, during which the state's prosecuting attorney braved a conviction-hungry electorate to save the life of a man he believed to be innocent.

For production values, for entertainment and education, the picture, deftly contrived, is headed for the upper ranks, and theatre patrons all over the country will undoubtedly register their appreciation of it. A good cast, offering frank and sincere performances, is a major asset, with Dana Andrews topping the crew in his role as the attorney. Jane Wyatt, as his wife; Lee J. Cobb, as the dour detective; Arthur Kennedy, as a maladjusted veteran trapped in the nets of circumstantial evidence, and Sam Levene, as a newspaper man who helps to build up the fire of public opinion for a solution to the murder, are among the "names" in the cast.

A minister is slain one night and several witnesses see only a dark-coated man with a gray hat running from the scene. There is no other evidence, and a country-wide search nets many persons, including prominent local residents, who fit the meager description. Kennedy, who inexplicably left town the night of the murder, is found in Ohio with a gun, and he is identified by witnesses as the assassin, amid mounting protests against the inefficiency of local police and a reform administration. However, despite a confession elicited from him by Cobb, reasonable doubt persists in the mind of Andrews about the accused, and the attorney submits this doubtful and conflicting evidence to the court, almost provoking a riot and a lynching. In spite of an offer for the governorship if he would prosecute, Andrews remains loyal to his conviction and to the ethics of his profession, and wins release for Kennedy. The case remains unsolved. Elia Kazan directed with a masterful hand, from a screenplay by Richard Murphy. The plot is based on an article by Anthony Abbot in *The Readers Digest*.

Running time, 88 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

"Blind Spot"

(*Columbia*)

OFFERING Chester Morris a change of pace from his "Boston Blackie" roles, "Blind Spot," produced by Ted Richmond and directed by Robert Gordon, is a poor man's "Lost Weekend," complicated by a couple of murders. While there are few subleties to veil the culprit, the pace of the film is good and the dialogue is above average. Morris turns in a good performance as the creative novelist who is dogged by poverty because he refuses to write for the popular market. "Tanking-up," he goes to his publisher, William Forrest, for a loan, is rebuffed, and in his mind concocts a mystery plot for a new novel. At the publisher's office he meets Steven Geray, a mystery-story writer with deep respect for Morris' ability, and Constance Dowling, the publisher's secretary.

After a stormy scene at the office, Morris goes downstairs to a bar where he discusses his book with the bartender, Sid Tomack, and is joined by Miss Dowling. The following morning he is booked by James Bell, a detective, on suspicion of having murdered the publisher, who has been found under circumstances similar to those plotted by Morris for his book. Released in the custody of Geray, Morris has a bit of unravelling to do before the ancient string-and-bolt technique is uncovered. Martin Goldsmith fashioned the scenario from a story by Barry Perowne.

Running time, 73 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 6.

I. K.

Sears Drive Ends Feb. 1

The "Grad Sears Gold Cup" drive will end on Feb. 1, it was announced here yesterday by J. J. Unger, UA General sales manager. The Chicago branch, headed by Sid Rose, is the current leader among branches, while the Midwest, headed by Rud Lohrenz, is tops in district standings.

'California' Promotion

The Western premiere of "California" will be held in Monterey, Cal., on Tuesday, and Paramount has plans for a radio send off, the medium being the "Vox Pop" show, which on the day of the premiere will be broadcast from the State Theatre in Monterey.

MPA Executives Confer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, who returned here from Hollywood yesterday, held a conference today with MPA executives Jack Bryson, Joyce O'Hara, David Palfreyman, Kenneth Clark and others.

Gildred Will Produce

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 23.—Plans are being completed by Theodore Gildred to produce on his own at his studios at Tepeyac, local suburb. Plans which he and Jesus Grovas, front-line producer and exhibitor (Producciones Grovas) have to start a theatre circuit here are nearing completion.

Fireproofing Urged

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Jan. 23.—Fire department officials, in the wave of alarm following the Atlanta Winecoff Hotel fire, have urged that all schools, theatres and places of public assembly be required to fireproof scenery, curtains and draperies.

Ackerman to TOC

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The Cincin-Glenway, Sunset and Covedale Theatres, operated by Charles G. Ackerman, have been signed up by the Theatre Owners Corp., bringing the total to around 40 houses

Irish Prepared to Produce This Year

By T. J. M. SHEEHY

DUBLIN, Jan. 17 (By Air Mail).—It is now definitely established that Ireland is to start a production industry in 1947. First orders for equipment have been placed with American firms. Contrary to much of the current speculation, the industry will not be government-run, but is being undertaken by Irish business men.

Three companies are being formed, one to build and rent studios, another to produce features and the third to produce shorts and possibly a screen news magazine.

It appears that the production center has based plans on a normal trading basis and is not depending on any quota or monopoly privileges.

Foreign technicians will be used to start the new industry, but it is intended to train Irish talent so that eventually the technical staff and talent will be Irish with few exceptions.

The new enterprises are not in any way connected with J. Arthur Rank. It is probable that the studios will help strengthen Irish and American film ties, which have been somewhat weakened since the Rank Organization purchased large theatre interests in Ireland and attracted much Irish acting and author talent to English studios.

'U' Has Acquired 28 Exchange Sites

Universal has acquired approximately 80 per cent of the sites for the 28 new exchanges it plans to build throughout the country, beginning on March 1, John J. O'Connor, 'U' vice-president and executive assistant to president Nate J. Blumberg, said here yesterday.

Bids for the first of the new buildings, to be erected in Chicago, now are being accepted by the Fuller Construction Co., and similar activity in several other key cities is expected soon.

Cincinnati Variety Has Foundling Plan

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The Cincinnati Variety Club, having adopted and placed in a foster home, a two-week-old baby girl abandoned on Celestial Street, is planning to sponsor placing in similar homes some of the baby girl wards of local institutions. As in the case of the foundling, named Celestial Variety Adams, the club will assume full responsibility and expense of rearing and educating the children until they marry. The club also has pledged support to a local institution devoted to the betterment of boys.

Taplinger in Conference

Robert Taplinger, Enterprise vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, will arrive here today for conferences with United Artist executives on advertising campaigns of "Ramrod," "Arch of Triumph," "The Other Love" and "Body and Soul." While here, Taplinger will confer also with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on the foreign publicity and advertising campaigns of the Enterprise pictures which M-G-M will handle.

March of Dimes

(Continued from page 1)

paign to date," Jenson said yesterday, "is due entirely to the cooperation of those members of the industry who are participating in the campaign and to the generous contributions of all of the motion picture trade journals in space, engravings and typography. Without this essential assistance, we could not have succeeded.

"Stars of the New York stage and visiting stars from Hollywood have also devoted a great deal of time to the campaign, assisting materially in many of our activities. Other players, at studios, and actors in shows on the road have been similarly cooperative.

"More than 25 manufacturers and distributors of 'brand' merchandise have been equally generous in contributing prizes to our three exhibitor contests.

"Much of the success of our campaign is due, too, to the excellent publicity our drive has received in newspapers as well as in the trade press. Charles Reed Jones, national publicity manager, did a fine job, and the results would not have been possible also without the help of the volunteers who were loaned to us by various motion picture companies. Among these publicity men in the field are:

Ralph Ravenscroft, Paramount, Los Angeles; Frank La Falce, Warner Brothers, Washington; Emery Austin, M-G-M, Atlanta; Al Winston, 20th Century-Fox, Chicago; Arnold Van Leer, Paramount, Boston; J. O. Brooks, Butterfield Theatres, Detroit; Gene Gaudette, RKO, Minneapolis; Irving Waterstreet, M-G-M, St. Louis; Edward Fisher, M-G-M, Cleveland; Henry Howard, RKO, Philadelphia; Jimmie Gillespie, 20th Century-Fox, Dallas; Willard Coughlan, United Artists, Seattle; M. Plessner, Fanchon and Marco, St. Louis, Mo.; Gene Rich, M-G-M, Omaha.

Kansas City Exhibitors Participating in Drive

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 23.—Nearly all theatres in Kansas City will run trailers on the March of Dimes campaign. Many in the territory will take audience collections. Some will provide space in lobbies for booths for contributions, a few will set up "wishing wells" or bowls and signs indicating that contributions for the fund may be deposited.

Some exhibitors here who will take up collections say this is their one collection for the year.

Fields Leaves $900,000

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—The estate of the late W. C. Fields, probated here yesterday, totalled $900,000. The bulk of the estate was left in trust for the benefit of a brother, Walter Dukenfield of Philadelphia, and a sister, Mrs. Adel C. Smith of New Jersey, with the provision that it ultimately go to an orphan's school.

PCCITO Plans

(Continued from page 1)

L. Traulen of Salt Lake City, L. H. Knutson of Livingston, Mont., and Hugo Jorgenson of Wrigley, Idaho, the latter two as observers.

Loew's Net

(Continued from page 1)

on 5,055,327 shares then outstanding. This included $286,556 for Loew's portion of the net undistributed income of partly-owned corporations. Net transferred to surplus then was $12,913,369, equivalent to $2.55 per share.

For the 12 weeks ended Nov. 21, 1946, net income, after depreciation, taxes and other deductions, subject to a yearend audit, totalled $3,650,976, equivalent to 72 cents a share, compared with $4,333,623, or 86 cents a share for the corresponding 12 weeks in the previous year. Gross sales and operating revenues for the 12 weeks were estimated at $41,460,000, compared with $41,710,000 for the same period last year.

The report lists the company's cash at $21,186,188, U. S. Government securities valued at $9,254,000, U. S. Savings Bonds valued at $7,381,835, and foreign government securities valued at $96,347, all amounting to $37,918,371.

Film productions in process were valued at $46,915,780, film productions completed but not released, at $9,489,143, and released product, less amortization, at $19,489,440, with total over-all inventories, including books and rights, advertising accessories and other material and supplies, amounting to $83,677,348.

Investments, including deposits on leases and contracts, domestic and foreign tax refunds, and postwar, carryback and other claims are recorded at $12,964,638. Fixed assets amounted to $72,229,149. Total assets came to $218,323,421.

Total current and working assets on Aug. 31 aggregated $127,830,012 against $120,835,889 the year before, while total current liabilities were $30,844,315 against $28,868,487.

Johnston on Air

(Continued from page 1)

spiritual," according to Mutual.

The announcement, by Phillips Carlin, Mutual vice-president in charge of programs, lists among the executive committee supervising the programs, along with Johnston, Leo McCarey, independent producer and director, and William Bacher and Clarence Hutson, directors of 20th Century-Fox. Robert Longnecker of the Sam Jaffe Agency is the producer and chairman of the group.

Carlin states that the new programs the result of the combined efforts of leaders of all branches of both the radio and film worlds, "public-spirited business heads who have given freely of their personal time and energies."

The first of the unsponsored shows will be True Boardman's "Flight from Home," starring Loretta Young. It will be heard Thursday, Feb. 13, at 10 P.M., EST. Meredith Wilson will be musical director for the series.

Forum Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

the forum, at which intra-industry disputes would be settled, insofar as possible, through round-table conferences.

At the same time, representatives of the ITOA's member theatres agreed to display the "No Help Wanted" trailer sponsored by the Veterans Employment Service and the American Legion. Distribution arrangements are being made for houses in New York and New Jersey.

Warner Vote

(Continued from page 1)

ended last Aug. 31, together with the shares of common stock held by each on Dec. 2, are listed in the statement as follows:

Carlisle, 400 shares, $55,020; Friedman, 1,200 shares, $66,100; Guggenheimer, 500 shares, $900; Schneider, $87,650; Wolf, 3,232 shares, $700; John E. Bierwirth, $600; Waddill Catchings, $1,000; Perkins, 1,000 shares, $74,750; Albert Warner, 438,000 shares, $105,000; Harry M. Warner, 313,400 shares, $182,300; Jack L. Warner, 442,000 shares, $182,100; Mort Blumenstock, $62,250; Benjamin Kalmenson, $97,600; Harry M. Kalmine, $107,344, and Herman Starr, $78,000. Joseph Bernhard, who resigned as an officer and director on Sept. 10, is listed as having received $106,800.

Remuneration, in excess of $20,000 each, for persons other than officers, directors and employes, is listed as follows: Hal Wallis, $150,00; James Cagney, $24,000; Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelsohn, attorneys, $115,000; Price, Waterhouse and Co., auditors, $91,750; Freston and Files, attorneys, $68,350; Baker, Selby and Ravenel, tax counsel, $31,500, and Defrees, Fiske, O'Brien and Thompson, attorneys, $24,000.

To Fete Waters, Moore

ALBANY, Jan. 23.—The local Variety Club will give a farewell dinner at Town House here Feb. 3 for Welden Waters and John Moore. Waters is now Pittsburgh manager for 20th Century-Fox.

Odell Promoted

(Continued from page 1)

ordinator of publicity and exploitation. He will be in charge of all research work and will conduct the physical operation of the publicity and exploitation departments.

The publicity services of Paramount thus will be conducted by the new department directed by Odell, by Aileen Brenon's magazine department, and by the radio department, which will continue under the direction of Burt Champion in the East and Martin Lewis on the Coast.

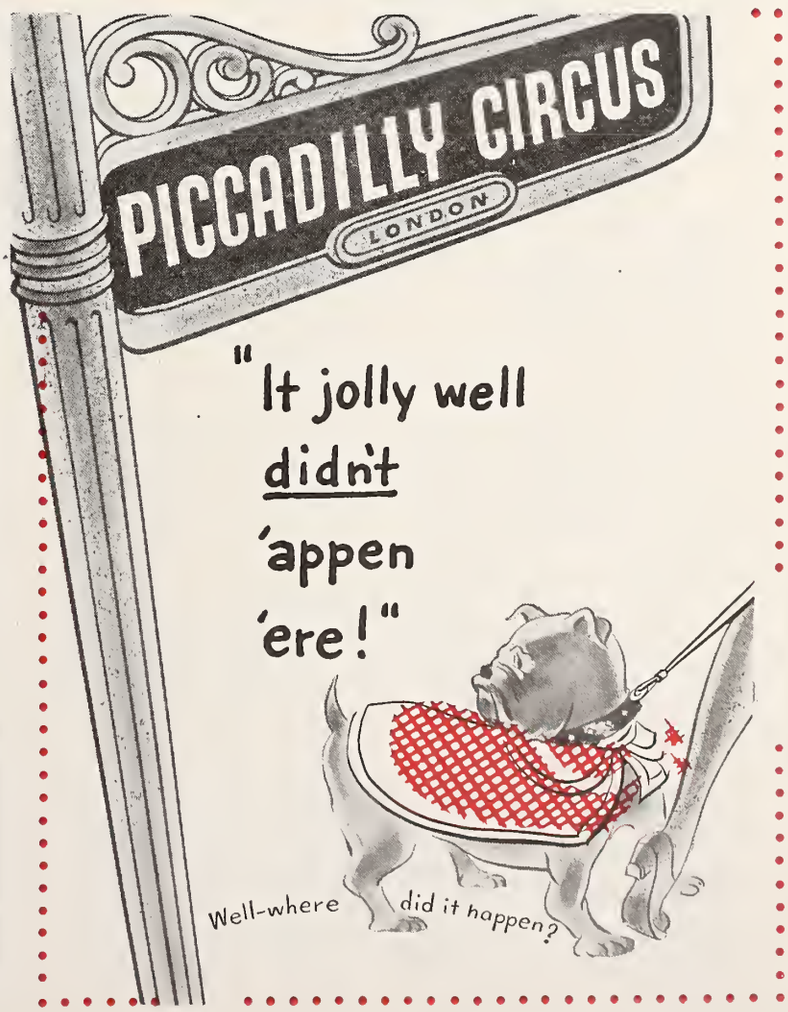
D. John Phillips continues as short subjects publicity director and Joseph Callahan as his assistant. Milton Mohr will remain in charge of syndicates and Louis Pelegrine of the trade press, with Fred Hodgson continuing as publicity writer. All three will work under the supervision of Odell.

Under Miss Brenon, Marjorie Kane will handle fan magazines, Edith Stone will service miscellaneous publications, Peggy Fewer will serve the magazine department in an over-all capacity.

Assistant manager of the photo department under Rex Taylor will be Ed Sullivan.

St. Louis DST Drive

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Theatre owners here launched renewed drive today for signatures to petitions asking for repeal of daylight saving time. The election board said petitions presented by exhibitors were 2485 names short since a great many were invalid.



MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Dec. 28	SINGIN' IN THE CORN Judy Canova C—64 min. (Rev. 11/25/46)		SONG OF THE SIERRAS Jimmy Wakely 'Lasses' White O—55 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47)	BLUE SKIES Bing Crosby Fred Astaire M—107 min. (Rev. 9/26/46)		(Dec. 23 Releases) STAGECOACH TO DENVER Allan Lane Bobby Blake THAT BRENNAN GIRL James Dunn Mona Freeman D—95 min. (Rev. 11/18/46)	CHILD OF DIVORCE Sharyn Moffett Regis Toomey D—62 mins. (Rev. 10/21/46) CRIMINAL COURT Tom Conway Martha O'Driscoll D—63 mins. (Rev. 8/9/46)	(Jan. Releases) RAZOR'S EDGE Gene Tierney Tyrone Power D—146 mins. (Rev. 11/20/46) THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (Color) Betty Grable M—85 mins. (703) (Rev. 12/31/46)	(Crosby) ABIE'S IRISH ROSE Michael Chekhov Joanna Dru D—96 mins. (Rev. 11/25/46)	(Dec. Release) TEMPTATION Merle Oberon George Brent D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/16/46))	THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (Color) M—105 min. (610) (Rev. 12/10/46)
Jan. 4	(Dec. Release) RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO Louis Hayward Barbara Britton (Rev. 11/27/46)	(Jan. Releases) 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (Color) Robert Walker Van Heflin M—135 mins. (710) (Rev. 11/13/46) GALLANT BESS (Color) Marshall Thompson George Tobias D—99 mins. (702) (Rev. 9/4/46)	GINGER Frank Albertson Barbara Reed D—57 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47)			THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas	DEADLIER THAN THE MALE Claire Trevor Lawrence Tierney (Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)	13 RUE MADELEINE James Cagney Annabella D—95 mins. (702) (Rev. 12/17/46)		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46) I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou M—93 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47)	
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)		RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL Gilbert Roland O—61 mins.	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands						THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)	THE MIGHTY McGURK Wallace Beery D—85 mins. (711) (Rev. 11/27/46)	RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins.		WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean			(Reissue) STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE Spencer Tracy D—101 mins. (705)		THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	LADY IN THE LAKE Robert Montgomery D—103 mins. (712) (Rev. 11/27/46)	VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser M—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)		TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67		(Reissue) LES MISERABLES Fredric March Charles Laughton D—(704)			HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)				CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)		(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy	
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John		SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins.	(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D	SMASH-UP—THE STORY OF A WOMAN Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean	ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich D	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild			
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	RETURN OF RIN-TIN-TIN (Color) UNTAMED FURY Mikel Conrad	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)			NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins.
Mar. 1			THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		PHILO VANCE RETURNS Alan Curtis D THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont D	VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins. THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)				
Mar. 8				EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn			THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)				(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 18 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Columbia Seen As First to Upper Court

Frolich Says Appeal 'Probably' This Week

By GENE ARNEEL

Indications point to Columbia's becoming the first party to file notice of appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, Louis Frolich, counsel for the company, having stated at the weekend that such action will be taken "probably this week," subject to rulings on motions to alter the decree. Universal and United Artists also are on record with their intentions to appeal, although the theatre-owning defendants have

(*Continued on page 9*)

Loew Board Up for Reelection Feb. 27

Entire board of directors of Loew's, Inc., will come up for reelection at the annual meeting of the company's stockholders here on Feb. 27, according to Leopold Friedman, corporate secretary.

Number of shares of common stock owned by each of the directors, directly or indirectly, is listed as follows: Friedman, 4,136; Eugene W. Leake, 200; Charles C. Moskowitz, 3,500; William A. Parker, 1,000 (in addition to 72,000 owned by Incorporated Investors, Inc., Boston, of which

(*Continued on page 9*)

Schiller Is Head of Branch Operations

The promotion of Albert E. Schiller to head of branch operations is announced by Republic, with the appointment becoming effective immediately.

Schiller has been associated with the company since its inception, and until a year ago was head of the accounting department. Since that time he has been assistant to Walter L. Titus, Jr., vice-president, formerly in charge of branch operations and now Southern division sales manager.

A. E. Fox has been appointed assistant to Schiller in branch operations.

3 'U' Sales Meetings Starting Today, to Plan Next 6 Months

Plans for the distribution of Universal-International product for the next six months will be formulated at three sales meetings scheduled by W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager of Universal. The first meeting will start today at Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, attended by branch managers from Los Angeles, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Settle and Portland, Ore., together with A. J. O'Keefe, assistant general sales manager; John Joseph

(*Continued on page 9*)

RKO Meeting Starts Today

Robert Mochrie, RKO-Radio vice-president and general sales manager, will preside at a mid-winter sales and policy meeting of the company's district managers to be held today through Wednesday in the Waldorf-Astoria, here.

Home office executives who will also attend include Nat Levy and Walter E. Branson, Eastern and Western division sales managers, and Harry J. Michalson, short subjects manager. Leo M. Devaney, Canadian division sales manager, will be present, and so will the following district managers: H. H. Greenblatt, Midwestern; R. V. Nolan, Prairie; Len S. Gruenberg, Rocky Mountain; J. H.

(*Continued on page 9*)

Nelson Takes Part In Gov't-Film Plan

Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, will represent that group on the 12-man industry committee whose duty it will be to expedite the handling of approved Government films. Actually, the Government has yet to approach the industry on film matters since establishment of the machinery, so far as is known.

Johnston to Trade Parley

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Continuation of the State Department's program of reciprocal trade agreements will be urged by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, when he appears before the Inter-Departmental Committee on Reciprocity on Feb. 6, according to MPA headquarters here.

Johnston will outline the trade problems of the industry and point out those which can be corrected at the Geneva Trade Conference in April, in which 18 nations will participate.

The MPA president will urge that Congress continue the reciprocal trade program, which was started in 1934 by the late President Roosevelt.

Rules Cut Rates or Premiums Void Rights of Theatres to Clearance

Milwaukee, Jan. 26.—Dismissing complaints against 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers, the local arbitration tribunal has ruled that in view of special cut admission rates and the practice of using give-aways or premiums "other than legitimate entertainment to attract patrons," clearance of the Milwaukee and Hollywood theatres, in favor of the Burleigh, is eliminated.

Only "upon discontinuance of the practices referred to as objectionable," the arbitrator continued, "and the charging of regular adult admission prices at all times after five P.M.," will the two houses be awarded 14 days clearance over the Burleigh.

The award also permits one-day clearance for the Burleigh over the Mars Theatre, complainant in a case which named the five distributor circuits as defendants and Langenreich Brothers, operators of the Burleigh; Fox Badger Theatre Corp., Warner Theatres of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Theatre Co. and Hollywood Operating Co. as intervenors. Although not a complainant, the arbitrator pointed out, the Burleigh entered the same complaint as the Mars and asked for relief by a reduction of clearances.

One Showcase To Each Firm: NelsonRemedy

Complete Divorcement No Solution, He Says

The elimination of local theatre monopolies, with each film company apportioned only one "showcase" in each principal city, would put the operations of the industry on an equitable basis for all; this is the feeling of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers as expressed here Friday by Donald Nelson, its president, before his departure for the Coast.

Donald Nelson

Wholesale divestiture is not the answer, Nelson stated, adding that

(*Continued on page 9*)

Ask for Reversal of Momand Decision

BOSTON, Jan. 26.—The distributor defendants in the conspiracy suit brought by A. B. Momand, former Oklahoma exhibitor, have filed motion for a reversal of the jury's verdict of last week which awarded the plaintiff damages of $966,000, including interest.

(*Continued on page 9*)

McCarthy Named MPA France Mgr.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Promotion of Frank McCarthy to the position of manager in France for the Motion Picture Association was announced at the weekend by Eric Johnston, MPA

(*Continued on page 8*)

In This Issue

The following films are reviewed on page 5: "South of the Chisholm Trail," "Trail to San Antone," "Born to Speed" and "Wild Country." On page 8, "Hungry Hill" is reviewed.

Personal Mention

ALFRED W. SCHWALBERG, Eagle-Lion vice-president and general sales manager, has arrived in Charlotte, to address the convention of T. O. of North and South Carolina.

•

DAPHNE DOLORES MERCEDES SKOURAS, daughter of MR. and MRS. SPYROS P. SKOURAS, will be married to OREN ROOT, JR., in the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, here, on Feb. 15.

•

JOHN G. PAINE, general manager of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, has been made Chevalier of the National Order of the French Legion of Honor.

•

DAVID LIPTON, Universal-International studio coördinator of advertising and promotion, arrived in Hollywood from New York over the weekend.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO-Radio vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, now in Miami, will visit South America before returning to New York.

•

SID MESIBOV, Paramount's assistant exploitation manager, left New York at the weekend for Columbia, Mo., accompanying actress VIRGINIA WELLES.

•

SID GOLDSTEIN, assistant to JAY COYE, head of sales development for M-G-M, will be married to CAROLYN GREENBERG on Feb. 15.

•

CARL LESERMAN, distribution chief of Benedict Bogeaus Productions, is due to arrive in New York today from the Coast.

•

LOUIS S. LIFTON, Monogram advertising-publicity director, is scheduled to leave here for the Coast by plane today.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations chief, has arrived at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., from New York.

•

LOREN L. RYDER, president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, will leave New York for Hollywood today.

•

WILLIAM HOWARD, assistant general manager of RKO Theatres, will leave today for a tour of the Mid-West.

•

DAVID ROSE, producer, will leave Hollywood today by train for New York en route to England.

•

HAROLD LEWIS, RKO Pathe studio manager in New York, will leave here today for Hollywood.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON of M-G-M returned to New York from Chicago over the weekend.

•

IRENE DUNNE has arrived in New York from the Coast.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

HOWARD HUGHES' "victory" over New York City License Commissioner Benjamin F. Fielding before the Board of Regents of the State Department of Education at Albany was seized upon by Hughes' press agents as a palpable exoneration of their client, his picture, "The Outlaw," and the advertising which goes with the latter.

However much of a "victory" it may be for Mr. Hughes, it is very likely to prove to be a defeat for the motion picture industry, and a costly one, at that.

Actually, of course, it was not even a victory for Mr. Hughes. The Regents indicated they would have been quite pleased to grant Mr. Fielding's petition for the revocation of the exhibition license previously issued "The Outlaw" by the state, solely on the grounds that indecent advertising had been employed for the picture, but asserted that they lacked the authority to so act. The Regents then proceeded to recommend the enactment of legislation which would empower them to prohibit the exhibition of a film which has been advertised indecently.

Promptly thereafter bills were introduced in the New York State legislature closely paralleling the recommendations of the Board of Regents.

•

Thus, the entire industry, in its important operations in New York state, stands in danger of having its advertising subjected to political censorship hereafter. Conceivably, if the legislation is enacted, a producer-distributor could suffer the loss of the lucrative state market through the withdrawal of his picture's state license simply because some misguided exhibitor overstepped the bounds of decency in advertising the production.

The proposed legislation is dangerous. It is inimical to the industry in that it establishes precedent and pattern for state legislatures elsewhere.

It is the price the industry may be required to pay for Mr. Hughes' "victory." It demonstrates, again, that those who court such measures by flaunting the decent principles, written and unwrtiten, which the responsible members of the industry subscribe to, are the real enemies of the industry. They are the trade outlaws who have little or no regard for the reputation of the motion picture and the continuity of a free industry.

It is the danger from within, far more than from the censorial-minded outsiders, which must give the industry pause on occasions such as this, for it is only by the undisciplined and unscrupled flaunting of decency by those within our midst that meaning and potency is given to attack upon the industry from without.

The Albany incident affords some slight idea of what the industry has been saved over the years by the Production Code.

• •

Are film buying combines done for?

Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, replying to the question at the St. Louis exhibitor meeting last week, said that regardless of the legality or illegality of independent exhibitor buying combines, the new decree leaves them little advantage to offer exhibitors.

Levy pointed out that under the new competitive bidding provisions, it is difficult to conceive of an exhibitor who would disclose his competitive bids to an agent who is buying for others, among them the exhibitor's bidding competitors. In addition, he observed, in competitive areas in which the distributor will be required to offer his product to all who wish to bid for it, there would be no negotiating service which could be performed by an agent since the bids themselves will determine to whom the pictures go.

Interesting. And convincing, too.

• •

The inquiry of Robert L. Wright, assistant to the Attorney General, about whether the five theatre-owning defendants in the government anti-trust suit could furnish sufficient copies of the 3,000-page record of the suit (which those defendants have had printed as the case progressed over the years) to permit the government to file its Supreme Court appeal from the decree, strikes many as the height of something or other.

The tax payers' money (including that of the defendants) maintains the Government Printing Bureau in Washington where Wright can have the record printed without charge and at an actual cost to the government and tax payers of much less than a commercial printer would do the work for defendants. Wright's request is like borrowing a bullet from the intended victim in order to take a pot-shot at him.

Newsreel Parade

GEORGIA'S gubernatorial mix-up, Gen. Marshall's induction into the office of Secretary of State and the battle in Indo-China are highlighted in current newsreels, which otherwise place the chief emphasis on athletic events. Full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 43—War in Indo-China. Film highlights: Marshall sworn in as Secretary of State; police headquarters in Haifi blown up; London strike settled; Georgia stricken by the battle of the governors. Resort styles. Ski jumping.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 241—Full-scale war in Indo-China. New explosion ends truce in Palestine. Marshall sworn in. Truman and the scientists. March of Dimes style show in New York. Skiing at Fox River Grove, Ill. Dog-sledding in New Hampshire; wrestling at Miami.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 44—Marshall takes over. London says: "Watch the birdies." First pictures of battle in Indo-China. Georgia's "governors." The battle goes on. Flying Irishman sets ski record.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 46—Governor's battle continues. Marshall sworn in. Revolt in Indo-China.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 7—French government forces shell rebel-held town in Indo-China. Students stage protest rally against Talmadge in Georgia's battle of governors. Gen. Marshall takes oath of office as new Secretary of State before President and cabinet members. Breath-taking spills as ski-jumping champs soar through space at 41st annual tournament at Fox River Grove, Ill. Maulers fill ring with gooey, sticky mud and dive in for round of mud-wrestling at Lakeworth, Fla.

Goldberg Holding Warner Meeting

A meeting of Warner circuit zone advertising men will be held here today and tomorrow at the home office by Harry Goldberg, director of theatre advertising-publicity, to discuss current advertising matters and special campaigns for forthcoming Warner releases.

Mort Blumenstock, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity for Warner Brothers, will outline policies for the handling of "Nora Prentiss," "Pursued," "The Two Mrs. Carrolls" and other productions on the spring schedule. Harry M. Kalmine, general manager of Warner Theatres, also will address the sessions.

Zone advertising men present will include J. Knox Strachan, Cleveland; Dan Finn, New Haven; George Kelly, Newark; Charles A. Smakwitz, Albany; Everett C. Callow, Philadelphia; James Totman, Pittsburgh; Frank LaFalce, Washington; Harry MacDonald, Milwaukee.

St. Louis Picks 'Bells'

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—"The Bells of St. Mary's" was picked as the best picture of 1946 by readers of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The others are: "Leave Her To Heaven," "The Lost Week-end," "Spellbound," "The Green Years," "To Each His Own," "Anna and the King of Siam," "The Razor's Edge," "Gilda," "Night and Day."

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"SOME WOMEN CAN'T STAND CATS...
With Me It's Men!..."

That Gal Guild Drives Montgomery Wild!

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON

(Rarest and most dangerous of coins!)

Starring

GEORGE MONTGOMERY · NANCY GUILD

with Conrad Janis · Roy Roberts · Fritz Kortner · Florence Bates · Marvin Miller

Directed by JOHN BRAHM · Produced by ROBERT BASSLER

Based on the Novel "The High Window" by RAYMOND CHANDLER · Screen Play by Dorothy Hannah · Adaptation by Leonard Praskins

IT'S A FACT!

No Company Has Such Sensational Boxoffice Hits Now Playing And On The Way As 20th CENTURY-FOX

"MARGIE" In Technicolor · "MY DARLING CLEMENTINE" · "THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" In Technicolor · "BOOMERANG!" · "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" · "CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" In Technicolor

AAA Appeal Board Upholds Ruling

Affirming a ruling by the New Orleans tribunal, the Arbitration Appeal Board, New York, has sustained rejection of a request by Joy Theatres, Inc., operating the Joy, Shreveport, La., for elimination or reduction of clearance favoring the Glenwood Theatre, there, in licensing agreements with Loew-M-G-M. Don George, operator of the Glenwood, filed as intervenor.

The Joy Theatre, which was a party in a voluntary agreement for reduction of an original clearance of 60 days to its present 35, sought elimination or, "in the alternative equitably reduced to one day, but in no event later than 30 days after regional release date," according to the award. Citing the voluntary agreement, the appeal board observed that it did not know why the 35-day figure was selected, "but the exact length of the clearance has not been made the subject of any special complaint."

Boston AAA Rules In Clearance Case

Reduction of clearance from 30 days to 21 days in favor of the Norwood and Guild Theatres, of Norwood, Mass., over the Elite Theatre at Walpole has been awarded by the Boston tribunal of the American Arbitration Association. The complaint, filed by the Elite, named M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Brothers, RKO Radio, Paramount and the George A. Giles Co., operator of the two Norwood theatres, as defendants.

Citing the contracts between the Elite and RKO Radio and Paramount as providing for 21 days' clearance for the Norwood over the Walpole, the arbitrator said, however, that he was "treating the contracts between the Norwood and RKO and Paramount as constituting a present requirement of 30 days' clearance."

GE Television Sets Due in February

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 26.—Television sets, which attained only 10 per cent of the 1946 schedule of 200,000, is due to reach that goal this year, Phillip Caldwell, sales manager of General Electric's transmission division, declared here, in an address to the Electric Appliance and Radio Dealers Association.

Caldwell said that his company will begin nationwide distribution of sets early in February. Initial models will be direct-view consoles with a six-by-eight-inch screen and a standard band for radio reception, he added.

Donald Hicks Named Paramount Manager

OMAHA, Jan. 26.—Donald Hicks comes to Omaha from Kansas City as the new Paramount branch manager, succeeding Jess McBride, who has been transferred to Milwaukee. Frank Westbrook comes from the same city to replace E. I. Rubin as Paramount salesman.

At RKO Radio, exploiteer John Matis switches to salesman. William Fultz comes from Warners at Des Moines to become a Columbia salesman, succeeding Pat Jolly.

Reviews

"South of the Chisholm Trail"

(*Columbia*)

FOR those who like their Western heroes tough, yet quiet, johnny-on-the spot whenever trouble pops, to be the victor of all scrapes, "South of the Chisholm Trail," which brings Charles Starrett forward again as "The Durango Kid," should please sufficiently. Gun-fights and horse-riding abound as Starrett flits from scene to scene, deftly changing horse and attire frequently.

Framed in the Wild-West country of the 1870's, the picture revives the period when cattle rustlers, headed by a ruthless cattle-buyer, who is hungry for profits, put the "squeeze-play" on local ranchers, preventing them from getting their beef to market. The rustlers are on the verge of success until Starrett, confusing the outlaws by appearing to be on their side, wins out. Also in the cast are Smiley Burnette, amusing in his role as jack-of-all-trades and entertaining in his rendition of several songs; Frank Sully, as the cattle-buyer; Nancy Saunders, as the lass who manages her father's ranch after his death, and George Chesebro, as the undercover leader of the rustlers. Produced by Colbert Clark, the picture was directed by Derwin Abrahams, from a story and scenario by Michael Simmons.

Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 30. IRVING KAPLAN

"Trail to San Antone"

(*Republic*)

GENE AUTRY'S second vehicle for Republic since his return from the Armed Forces, "Trail to San Antone" is a nicely polished, nicely acted piece about modern-day ranching. It should serve well toward reinvigorating Gene's prestige as one of filmdom's top-ranking cowboy actors. Supported by the Cass County Boys, he renders several ear-appealing Western ballads, and during the course of the proceedings does some corralling with the aid of a cub plane, helps to rehabilitate an injured, disheartened jockey, and defeats an unscrupulous horse trainer.

The screenplay fundamentally concerns the training of a thoroughbred for a big race, as written by Jack Natteford and Luci Ward. Armand Schaefer was associate producer; John English directed. Peggy Stewart plays a pretty rancher whose horse places in the climactic race, largely because of the efforts of Gene and the jockey he befriends. Rounding out the cast are Sterling Holloway, William Henry, John Duncan, Tristram Coffin and others.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 25. CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Born to Speed"

(*Producers Releasing*)

AUTO racing herein does not make for the dashing affair which the subject and its title, "Born to Speed," might indicate. The old faithful fan of action fare might, however, find the picture satisfactory probably because of scenes of the daredevils in action at the track. Obvious plot development and awkward dialogue and delivery slow down the film.

Johnny Sands has the lead as the youngster bent on copping the top race of the season. His father had pursued the same career until a fatal accident. Terry Austin, Don Castle, Geraldine Wall, Frank Orth and Joe Haworth are among the other performers.

The screenplay by Crane Wilbur, Scott Dowling and Robert B. Churchill, has Sands going through familiar motions until he breaks the tape on three wheels in the big race. Churchill wrote the original. Edward L. Cahn directed, Marvin D. Stahl produced.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 12. GENE ARNEEL

"Wild Country"

(*Producers Releasing*)

THE singing voice of PRC cowboy Eddie Dean is far too mellow to be used in a sub-standard Western like "Wild Country." This one has Dean in the role of a lawman assigned to the job of recapturing a dangerous escaped convict, played by I. Stanford Jolley. The usual gun-play, hard riding and fist-fighting emerge from time to time to inject excitement into the transparent proceedings, and opportunities are made for three cowboy songs which are rendered admirably by Dean. Grimacing Roscoe Ates plays Dean's comic side-kick. Others in the cast include Peggy Wynn, Douglas Fowley, Forrest Mathews and The Sunshine Boys. Ray Taylor directed, from a screenplay by Arthur E. Orloff. Jerry Thomas produced.

Running time, 59 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 17. C. L. F.

Monogram Signs 153

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Five circuits, comprising 153 situations, have signed for the Monogram output for 1946-47; they are: Comerford-Publix, with 88 houses in Pennsylvania and New York; Pitts Theaters, with 25 in Virginia and West Virginia; Cinema Circuit Corp., 13 in New York and New Jersey; Varbalow Circuit, 16 in New Jersey; Rosenblatt-Welt Theaters, 11 in New York and New Jersey.

RKO French Film Ready

"Golden Silence," first feature for RKO Radio world distribution made jointly by RKO and Pathe Cinema, under direction of Rene Clair, has been completed in Paris. Clair, who produced it with Maurice Chevalier, Francois Perier and Marcelle Derrien co-starred, will remain there to supervise editing. Chevalier will sail in February for America to begin a one-man-show tour.

High Army Honors To Jack L. Warner

Washington, Jan. 26. — The War Department announced today the award of the Medal for Merit to Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc. The award is for Warner's services to the War Department from Sept., 1939, to Sept., 1945.

Presentation of the award will be made by General of the Army Henry H. Arnold on Warner's return from Europe.

Tradeshows Set for Seven by Reagan

Trade screenings of seven Paramount productions have been scheduled by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution.

Hope Enterprises' "My Favorite Brunette" will be shown to the trade in all exchange areas on Monday, Feb. 17. On Friday, Feb. 14, three Pine-Thomas productions will be screened in all territories: "Big Town," "Seven Were Saved" and "Fear in the Night."

Another trio of Pine-Thomas productions will be tradeshown in all areas on Friday, Feb. 21. The films comprise "Danger Street," "I Cover Big Town" and "Jungle Flight."

3 British Firms File To Recover $60,300

A suit to recover $60,300 and interest since October, 1944, against James W. Johnson, individually, and as Collector of Internal Revenue here, has been filed in U. S. District Court of New York by Misbourne Pictures, Ltd.; British Aviation Pictures, Ltd., and General Film Distributors, which maintain that the money, deducted from $201,000 paid to them by Samuel Goldwyn for their production, "Spitfire," was part of a payment for a tangible asset.

The money was taken by the tax collector as a withholding tax, but the plaintiffs contend that his action was "erroneous and illegal" since the amount paid by Goldwyn "did not constitute an advance payment of royalties."

Sunday Issue Favored

HARTFORD, Jan. 26.—The board of alderman ordinance committee has voted to recommend the allowance of local theatres to open on Sundays at 1:30 P.M. and remain open until 11:30 instead of the present hours of two to 11.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

Hoblitzelle, Jackson At Carolina Meeting

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 26.—Karl Hoblitzelle, president of Interstate Theatres, Inc., Dallas, and Mack Jackson, president of both the Confederacy of Southern Associations and the Southeastern Theatre Owners Association, of Alexander City, Ala., are additional speakers who will address the 35th annual convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolinas, being held here at the Hotel Charlotte today through Tuesday.

Already scheduled to speak are E. V. Richards, Jr., New Orleans, temporary chairman of the Motion Picture Foundation, and Robert T. Barton, Jr., Richmond, Va., attorney for the Confederacy of Southern Associations.

More than 500 theatre owners and film industry officials are attending. Ben Strozier of Rock Hill, S. C., president of the association, is presiding.

PCCITO Plans Fight On 20% Oregon Tax

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 26.—Executives of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, meeting at the Benson Hotel, here, outlined a program of opposition to the proposed 20 per cent Oregon theatre admission tax.

Decrys Train Shows As 16mm. 'Wedge'

COLUMBIA, O., Jan. 26.—Showing of 16mm. versions on Chesapeake and Ohio trains may be the entering wedge for encroachment of the narrow pictures in competition with standard size films, says P. J. Wood, secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, in a bulletin to ITO members.

"If the showing of these free 16mm. pictures were confined to train audiences," said Wood, "it would be of little concern to theatre owners, but it has been the experience in this business that when a new gadget is introduced by one company all of the others try to improve upon it. With all companies reducing their top pictures it will not be long before all of them will be selling these in competition to their 35mm. department, to the detriment of bona fide exhibitors."

Charge Police Remiss As Holdups Increase

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—A series of theatre holdups has prompted local theatremen to launch an investigation into night police protection.

It is charged that only one policeman is assigned to a large area of many downtown blocks, and robbers are virtually completely assured of no trouble while "pulling" a job.

Ralph Stitt Resigns

Ralph Stitt, New England field exploiteer for 20th Century-Fox, has resigned, the home office announced at the weekend.

Competition Threat Is Big in Australia

By CLIFF HOLT

SYDNEY, Jan. 21 (By Air Mail)—Unless the quality of their product shows improvement, American distributors are unlikely to maintain 1946 grosses here this year. Reduced public spending is one factor, the increasing popularity and greater numerical strength of British films is another.

In the latter half of 1946, British films outgrossed American product all along the line, with a few exceptions. Once the British trade-mark was a liability here; now it is a valuable asset. It is expected that Britain this year will release about 50 features in Australia.

Although theatre operating costs are estimated at 40 per cent in excess of pre-war levels, Australian exhibitors continue to show extraordinary reluctance to advance admission prices. Prices of all commodities are controlled by the prices branch of the federal government. Before approval to alter admission can be obtained, the branch undoubtedly would require the submission of balance sheets.

Exhibitors, however, may soon be forced to take action to preserve their investment. William Harrof, business manager of the Exhibitors' Association of New South Wales, all of whose members are independents, declares that many independents disposed of their theatre holdings to circuits during 1946 because they were without capital to bring their theatres up to date.

Meanwhile, New Zealand film circles are concerned over a recommendation that the film industry there be investigated by a Royal Commission. The recommendation appears in *The Standard,* official publication of the Labor Party, which declares that private monopolies have "spread their tentacles" so far that independents are a dying race. The paper wants state control of film bookings.

Coast Laboratory to Handle Ansco Color

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Complete facilities to handle both professional industry and amateur Ansco color film processing, printing, editing and duplicating services have been made abailable at the new Houston Color Laboratories here. H. W. Houston, president of The Houston Corp., declared that it is "the first laboratory to qualify to do a complete servicing job for the motion picture industry on 35mm. Ansco color film."

Approves FDR Film

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has approved "The Roosevelt Story", 80-minute documentary which the Martin Levine-Oliver Unger Tola Productions has finished except for the musical background. Edward Craig has been retained as sound editor and Jack Shaindlan as musical director. Elliott Roosevelt was editorial consultant for the film.

Deutch Transferred

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 26.—Sam Deutch, office manager and head booker of the local Universal exchange, has been transferred to Omaha in the same capacity.

Claim 1st Helicopter Delivery of Print

On Wednesday, the first door-to-door aerial film delivery will be effected, Eagle-Lion Films reports here. The company has contracted for a Sikorsky S-51 helicopter to deliver the first print of its "Bedelia" to the Senate Theatre, where it will have its world premiere showing.

The rotary-winger, with Major Frank T. Cashman at the controls, will leave the helicopter base at Central Airport, Camden, and will land in Market Square, Harrisburg, directly at the door of the theatre. Isadore Goldsmith, producer of "Bedelia," will be on hand, also newly-elected Gov. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania and Mayor Howard Milliken of Harrisburg.

ASCAP Elects 18 to Its Directorate

ASCAP's board of directors has named the following writers and publishers to membership: In the popular music field, writers Leroy Anderson, Harold Barlow, H. O'Reilly Clint, Will E. Dulmage, Sylvia Fine, Joseph J. Lilley, Leonard C. Mackenzie, Jr., Harold Mott, Max Terr and Jaime Yamin; in the standard music field, writers John W. Duke and H. Maurice-Jacquet.

Publishers elected were: Argosy Music Corp., Clay Boland, Inc., Goldmine Music, J. J. Robbins, Inc., Sinatra Songs, and Woodward Music, Inc.

Continue Committee On Small Business

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The Senate today voted to continue its special committee on small business. Sen. Kenneth Wherry (Neb.) will head the group during the coming session.

"Enforcement of the anti-trust laws and monopolistic practices in major industries will take up a considerable portion of our time," Wherry commented.

Sen. Alben Barkley, Democratic leader, opposed the continuation of the committee on the grounds that it has no legislative power, and said that enforcement of the anti-trust laws "should be left up to the Justice Department."

Sandler Supply Firm

CLEVELAND, Jan. 26. — David Sandler, who during the period of material scarcity worked up a mail-order used equipment business, has formed the Drive-In Theatre Equipment Co. to manufacture and distribute a new type in-car speaker called "Auto Voice" for drive-in theatres.

Sack Acquires 3 Films

DALLAS, Jan. 26.—Sack Amusement Enterprises has acquired negatives and world rights to three Chesterfield productions, "Missing Girls," "House of Secrets" and "Red Lights Ahead." Deal was closed by Alfred N. Sack in Hollywood with George Batcheller, former Chesterfield head.

This shot is from *The Great Train Robbery* produced in 1903 by Edwin S. Porter —the film that introduced the technique of the "close-up" to the screen.

The shot that started the film editor on his way...

CRUDE as this shot seems to us now, it opened a young industry's eyes to a new way of making motion pictures—and started the film editor on his way to his present important position.

Today, working closely with director or producer, the film editor is responsible for much of a picture's continuity, its smooth flow and rhythm. On his creative understanding of theme and mood...his feeling for pace and its effect on drama...rests a large part of a picture's ultimate success.

And top-flight photographic quality, contributed by the family of Eastman motion picture films, gives the film editor the help he needs if he is to carry out his responsibility to the full.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., DISTRIBUTORS

FORT LEE • CHICAGO • HOLLYWOOD

Ohio Tax Reduction Awaits State Study

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 26.—Specific recommendations for possible reduction in Ohio taxes, including cutting the state's three per cent sales tax to two cents, will have to await a study of a report of the state tax commissioner by Gov. Thomas J. Herbert, the Republican governor declared in his first message to the legislature. The tax commissioner's report will be ready by Feb. 1.

Gov. Herbert's campaign promises included a sales tax reduction, presumably covering the three per cent admissions tax, which is essentially a sales tax on tickets. The governor did not mention the possibility of repeal of the admission tax, although he had been considering its proposal, according to reports. Cities have been urging such a move for the past year.

Minnesota to Get a City Ticket Tax Bill

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 26.—Representative George A. French, Minneapolis, reveals he is preparing a bill enabling cities to tax entertainment 10 per cent, with the receipts to go into each city's general fund.

The tax would be in addition to other ticket taxes and would be imposed regardless of whether Congress maintains the present 20 per cent wartime levy.

Mexican Income Tax Hits U. S. Workers

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 26.—All industry workers here, including foreigners who work in Mexico as directors, scenarists, players, or otherwise, as well as persons affiliated with other businesses, will pay higher income taxes under a new federal levy.

The amended income tax law provides such rates of payment as 22 per cent on an income of $3,600 to $4,150; 25 per cent from $4,150 to $4,700; 28 per cent, $4,700 to $5,250, and 30 per cent on all incomes above $5,250.

Cal. Bill Embodies Film Truckers Tax

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 26.—A newly-proposed tax on trucks which would directly affect film truck carriers has been introduced in the state legislature by Sen. Randolph Collier, calling for a $2,800,000,000 highway reconstruction program, and the principal part of the tax, according to Collier's committee, would fall on trucks.

Double Tax Threat

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Jan. 26.—Theatres in this city face the threat of a city amusement tax and also a tax on gross receipts, the City Council naming a special committee to investigate both possibilities as new methods of raising funds. If new methods fail, councilmen said the real estate tax would jump $10.

Clement's Father, 83

Frederic P. Clement, 83, father of Roger C. Clement, Paramount International's secretary and counsel, died Thursday at Doctor's Hospital, New York. Services and burial will take place in Rutland, Vt.

Review

"Hungry Hill"

(Two Cities—G.F.D.)

London

THE latest top-bracket offering from the J. Arthur Rank Organization may not rate the esteem which certain of its immediate predecessors earned, but nevertheless, by reason of its star appeal and the impeccable playing of its supporting cast, it will gather good money at British box-offices, and given appropriate exploitation will do well in select American theatres.

The exhibit—an episodic piece ranging over 50 years of troubled history—concerns itself with Ireland of the mid-19th century; one of its minor merits being that it depicts faithfully the closely mingled extremes of elegance and poverty which epitomized that place and time without ever descending to the tiresome whimsy of stage "Irishisms."

There are two families: the rich, comfortable, energetic Brodricks who prosper on the land which the shiftless Donovans claim belongs to them. The Brodricks get on with their money-making, the Donovans the while standing around deriding their enemies. The Brodricks enrich themselves, but with their wealth comes arid bitterness bred through their long feud with the Donovans. It is a grim relentless story whose unfolding is not assisted by some heavy-handed direction, but which is redeemed by choice performances not only by the stars but by a considerable galaxy of lesser known people.

Margaret Lockwood, Britain's No. 1 screen actress, puts across the best work of her career. Dennis Price, one of the rising favorites of the screen, takes a mighty leap forward. But chiefly to be remarked are the Irish players, most of whom herein make their motion picture debuts. Notable among a worthwhile host are Dermot Walsh and Siobhan McKenna; they are real acquisitions. Also to be recorded is the unusual happy circumstance that Two Cities have made an Irish film without once mentioning religion or politics.

Running time 109 minutes. British adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

PETER BURNUP

Edward Patrick Elected

HARTFORD, Jan. 26.—Results of elections of local No. 334, Motion Picture Projectionists, New Bedford, have been announced as follows: President, Edward Patrick; vice-president, George McLelland; secretary, Walter O. Smith; financial secretary, Wilfrid Robidoux; business agent, Edward Patrick; assistant, Alfred Davis. The executive board is composed of Joseph Thiberge, Lucien Cyr, Patrick Smith, Walter Smith, McLelland and Robidoux.

Jernigan Leaves Kaye

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 26.—Jerry Jernigan has resigned as branch manager of Kaye Films' exchange here. Lynn Dunn, branch manager of the Kay exchange in Memphis is holding forth here until a new manager is appointed.

NSS Moves Lowe

DETROIT, Jan. 26.—Harry Lowe, Detroit salesman with National Screen Service, has been transferred to the Philadelphia office. Replacing him will be Norman Linz, formerly head exploitation man for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Indianapolis.

Getschal Joins Bart

Budd Getschal, former member of the plans board of the Blaine Thompson agency, here, has joined the Stuart Bart Advertising Agency as vice-president in charge of creative departments.

Plan Coast Office

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—The Protestant Film Commission, a New York organization formed several months ago, will establish a branch office in Hollywood to maintain closer watch on films during preparation and production, if the plans set in motion by the Los Angeles Federation of Churches mature.

Variety Names Durmeyer

ATLANTA, Jan. 26.—New officers of Tent No. 21. Atlanta Variety Club, are: Charles D. Durmeyer, chief barker; Oscar Lam and John Cunningham, first and second chief barkers; Walter Speigh, dough guy; Guy Brown property master, and directors, E. E. Whitaker, Emery Austin, Ike Katz, E. D. Martin, Foreman Rogers, Mack Jackson, Paul Wilson, Jack Demestre, Harry Ballance and William K. Jenkins.

Minney Leaves Rank

R. J. Minney, producer of "The Wicked Lady," has severed his connection with the J. Arthur Rank interests, claiming there should be less emphasis on "prestige" pictures and more effort to capture the popular market, according to press dispatches reaching New York from London.

Cobian Names Planas

Frank G. Planas, who has been connected with Warners for the past 17 years, has been named general manager of National Pictures Corp. in Puerto Rico by Ramos Cobian, president.

Luncheon for Holden

William Holden of the cast of Paramount's "Blaze of Noon" will be host to magazine editors at a luncheon to be given him by the company at the 21 Club tomorrow.

Correction

Pictures of Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, and Emil Jensen, director of the motion picture division of the March of Dimes drive, were inadvertently transposed in stories concerning the two in last Friday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY. As a result, Schlaifer was erroneously identified as Jensen, and Jensen as Schlaifer.

Frank McCarthy

(Continued from page 1)

president. McCarthy will succeed Harold L. Smith, who is being transferred to the Hollywood MPA office.

Since Feb. 1, 1946, McCarthy has served as assistant to Byron Price, vice-president of the Association in charge of the Hollywood office. During the war, McCarthy served as military secretary to Gen. George Marshall, the new Secretary of State.

"The Association is endeavoring to send the highest type of men abroad as its representatives," Johnston said in announcing the appointment. Johnston said McCarthy's experience in the Army, as Assistant Secretary of State, and in Hollywood will enable him to strengthen relations of the motion picture industries of the two countries. Last November McCarthy, under commission of Nelson A. Rockefeller, designed a plan for the reorganization of five major United States foreign trade associations. Prior to the war, McCarthy worked with George Abbott, New York theatrical producer. In 1938, he served with the Warner Studio in California.

Mutual Launches New Coast Video Outlet

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26. — Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new $2,500,000 radio and television studio of Mutual network in Hollywood will take place before Feb. 1. The new studios will contain a building, which, it was said, will be the largest and most modern of its kind built exclusively for sound and television broadcasting.

RCA's R. R. Beal, 59 Dies in New York

Ralph R. Beal, 59, vice president in charge of engineering of RCA Communications, Inc., Radio Corporation of America subsidiary, died on Friday of a heart attack in Doctors Hospital here after a brief illness.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Merle Bertsche Beal, and a son, Ralph R. Beal, Jr., of Santa Monica, Calif.

Set 'Prentiss' Premiere

World premiere of "Nora Prentiss" has been set by Warner Brothers for Feb. 7 at the Boyd Theatre, Philadelphia. Two other out-of-town openings, at the Warner Theatre, Oklahoma City, on Feb. 12, and the Warner Theatre, Memphis, Feb. 13, are booked before the New York Strand opening, on Feb. 14.

Brubaker to Europe

CHICAGO, Jan. 26. — Robert E. Brubaker of Encylopaedia Britannica Films will sail for Europe aboard the *S. S. America* on Feb. 6 to establish Swiss offices and serve as consultant on the continent.

Hassler to Astor

ATLANTA, Jan. 26.—Don Hassler, formerly with Sack Amusement Enterprises and Bailey's Theatres, Atlanta, has been appointed special representative for Astor Pictures of Georgia.

'Pursued' Tradeshow

"Pursued," second United States Pictures' production for Warners, release, has been set for national tradeshowing on Monday, Feb. 17.

Loew Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

he is president); William F. Rodgers, 100; J. Robert Rubin, 5,940; Nicholas M. Schenck, 21,439; Joseph R. Vogel, 2,800; David Warfield, 21,000; Henry Rogers Winthrop, 300.

Remuneration received by Loew's officers and directors for the year ended Aug. 31, 1946, is listed as follows: the late David Bernstein, $40,356; Howard Dietz, $81,785, an increase of $3,571 over the preceding fiscal year; Friedman, $110,357, an increase of $5,071; Irving H. Greenfield, $22,160; Leake, $25,100, an increase of $200; Alexander Lichtman, $200,000; Edgar J. Mannix, $202,607; Louis B. Mayer, $500,000; Jesse T. Mills, $28,985; Moskowitz, $128,428, an increase of $8,500; Nicholas Nayfack, $50,166; Parker, $8,400, an increase of $200; Rodgers, $114,714; Rubin, $215,642; Marvin H. Schenck, $82,285, an increase of $4,285; Nicholas M. Schenck, $224,767; Louis K. Sidney, $104,285, an increase of $8,369; Benjamin Thau, $200,000, an increase of $24,892; Vogel, $116,428, an increase of $12,142; David Warfield, $1,300, and Winthrop, $6,300.

In addition, according to the proxy statement, the company deposited $66,250 in escrow, payable to Rodgers under certain contingencies.

The statement also lists amounts set aside for the officers under Loew's retirement plan, together with an estimate of the amount each will receive annually after retirement. For Dietz, $9,578 has been set aside toward a $15,950 annual benefit; Friedman, $26,946, toward $23,100; Greenfield, $2,080, toward $5.050; Lichtman, $59,287, toward $49,700; Mannix, $49,059, toward $49,700; Mayer, $55,356, toward $49,700; Mills, $7,224, toward $6,687; Moskowitz, $22,781, toward $25,375; Nayfack, $4,159, toward $12,700; Rodgers, $30,657, toward $25,700; Rubin, $51,960, toward $49,700; Marvin Schenck, $11,585, toward $19,200; Nicholas Schenck, $52,993, toward $49,700; Sidney, $22,675, toward $22.221; Thau, $21,106, toward $45,391; Vogel, $14,920, toward $23,100.

During the year, according to the statement, Loew's had a total of 371 employees, other than officers or directors, who received remuneration in excess of $20,000 each. Total paid to them was $20,926,606.

Individual payments in excess of $20,000 each, other than to officers, directors and employes, are listed as follows: Alvord and Alvord, Washington, for legal services, $55,345; Central Casting Corp., $46,757; George W. Cohen, Los Angeles, for legal services, $26,503; Oscar Cummins, Los Angeles, for legal services, $20,800; Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland and Kiendl, New York, Loew's counsel in the Government anti-trust suit, $58,860; Loeb and Loeb, Los Angeles, for legal services, $45,140; Miller, Donaldson and Co., New York, certified public accountants, $46,280; Serge Semenenko, Boston, for financial services, $55,000.

'Outlaw' Plea Wednesday

A motion by counsel for Howard Hughes, who have filed notice that they will seek dismissal by the N. Y. Supreme Court of four defenses entered by New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding and police commissioner Arthur W. Wallander, is scheduled for a hearing on Wednesday at a special term here. The city officials maintain that they are legally empowered to block exhibition of "The Outlaw" in New York.

'Gangs' from Madison

"Gangs, Inc., is being distributed by Madison Pictures, Inc., and not by Film Classics, as was inadvertently reported last Thursday among MOTION PICTURE DAILY's estimates of key city grosses.

Columbia Appeal Seen First

(*Continued from page* 1)

not yet expressed a decision.

Universal's papers, counsel Thomas Turner Cooke states, are already in order but the filing date has yet to be decided on. He said that it was his original intention to await action by the Department of Justice but this has now become subject to change.

While Columbia will concern itself for the most part with single sales and competitive bidding, Universal will take issue "all along the line," according to Cooke.

Cooke states that he will appeal from all provisions of the decree which affect the company, centering the attack around two features: one the implication that Universal engaged in a conspiracy with the "major" defendants, the other the legality of its trade practices with exhibitors, including price fixing, clearances, block booking and franchises.

United Artists' principals and counsel, it is understood, will meet here today to set the date for its bid to the high court. Edward C. Raftery, president, said last week that an appeal will be taken from the ban on price fixing and franchise deals.

The mechanics of the approach to the Supreme Court at the outset amount to filing of a petition to appeal, plus a statement seeking to establish the court's jurisdiction over the case and a citation of substantial questions found to be involved in the lower court's ruling.

Each company shall designate to the New York Federal District Court clerk that portion of the record of the case, if not all, which is to be sent to the Supreme Court clerk. The latter would thereupon have it printed at the company's expense.

UA, for example, would require only that part of the record dealing with price-fixing and franchises. On the other hand, Universal would require, for practical purposes, the entire record of over 3,000 pages. Cooke estimates that this would cost in the neighborhood of $7,500. However, he points out, if the voluminous exhibits entered into the case, numbering about 500, are not certified by the government as they now stand, the costs would soar since printed copies of these would be necessary.

Cooke recalled a Kansas City case similar to the film suit in this respect. Here all exhibits had to be submitted and the costs ran up to $90,000.

RKO-Radio Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

MacIntyre, Western; Ben Y. Cammack, Southwestern; David Prince, Southeastern; M. E. Cohen, Eastern Central; R. J. Folliard, Eastern; Charles Boasberg, Metropolitan, and Phil Hodes, New York Exchange manager.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss current RKO Radio product, including Liberty Films' "It's a Wonderful Life"; "Sinbad the Sailor," Walt Disney's "Song of the South," "The Farmer's Daughter," "The Locket" and "San Quentin."

3 'U' Sales Meets

(*Continued from page* 1)

national director of advertising—publicity, Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern director of advertising-publicity, and district managers Foster Blake and Barney Rose.

The second is set for the Drake Hotel, Chicago, Feb. 7-8, and the third will follow in New York.

Particular emphasis will be placed upon the release and selling plans for "The Egg and I," which will be set for release only after a complete plan of distribution has been formulated. "We want to make sure," Scully declared at the weekend, "that exhibitors will have as much chance to reap proper rewards as we will. For that reason we will carefully select our first engagements with the view of proving the picture's merit." It is expected that Scully will announce in New York the details of the distribution plan for the picture.

Vidor Asks New Trial

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26. — Director Charles Vidor at the weekend filed a motion for a new trial of his case against Columbia for release from his contract, which was decided against him last month by Federal Judge Ben Harrison.

Momand Decision

(*Continued from page* 1)

Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., who has reserved the right to set aside the jury's decision, now has the new motion under advisement. The defendants allege several errors in the jury's determination of the case.

Nelson

(*Continued from page* 1)

the solution lies rather in some form of partial dissolution that would provide for each producer's having a fair showing of his wares on the basis of merit.

In its *amicus curiae* brief filed with the New York Federal Court in the litigation of the equity suit against the distributors, SIMPP held the independent producer to be free of any of the monopolistic practices charged against the defendants and asked that they be exempt from any court order.

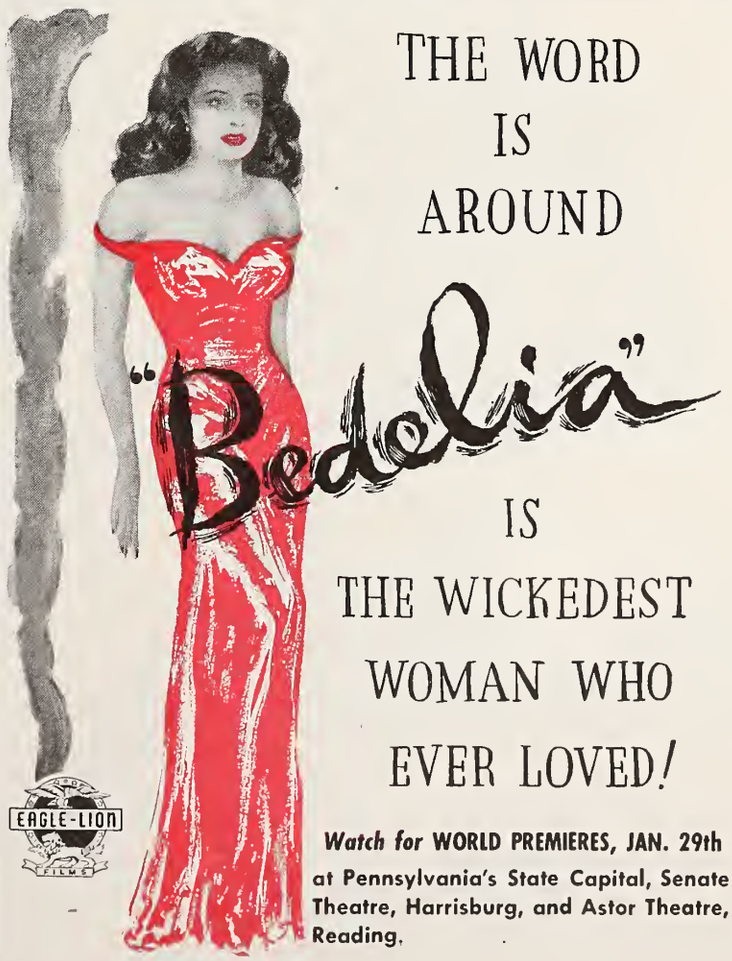
Nelson said that a committee headed by Loyd Wright is now at work on an analysis of the court's decree and the extent to which it will affect the organization. Upon study of the group's report SIMPP will set its course of further action, possibly efforts to be heard by the Supreme Court.

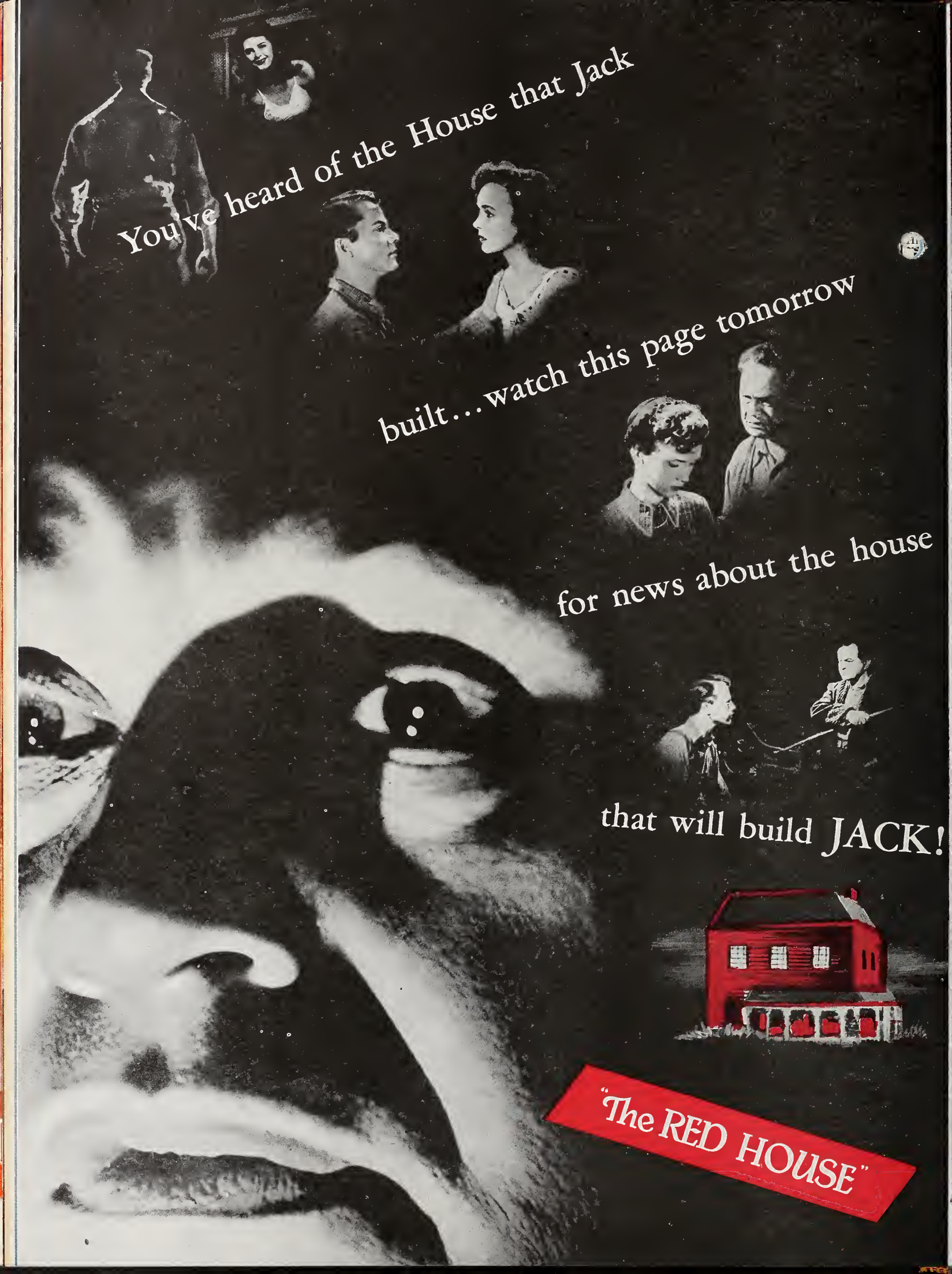
Approve Sunday Films

Sunday films, still forbidden in hundreds of British communities, have been tacitly approved by the Christian Film Council, provided the pictures shown on the Sabbath are of "a high moral tone," according to press dispatches reaching New York from London.

Lynn Dunn Promoted

MEMPHIS, Jan. 26.—Lynn Dunn, branch manager of Kay Film Exchange, Memphis, has been promoted to district manager and will have headquarters in New Orleans.




You've heard of the House that Jack
built... watch this page tomorrow
for news about the house
that will build JACK!
"The RED HOUSE"

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 19 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1947 | TEN CENTS

SMPE Field Is Expanded To Television

Industry Approves Step As Theatre Video Nears

The board of directors of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers has voted to extend the scope of the society's activities to include the coordination of engineering work in all fields of "pictorial rendition of action," thus adding television to its present film sphere, Loren L. Ryder, newly-elected president of the SMPE, disclosed here yesterday.

First activity of the society under the extended program will be to represent the film industry before the Federal Communications Commission at

(*Continued on page* 10)

Barriers Hit By Johnston

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 27.—In an address before the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, in support of the U. S. reciprocal trade program, Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, lashed out anew at international trade barriers and in one instance hit strongly upon British film restrictions.

The U. S. imposes no barriers against British pictures, he said, adding, "there is great, and frequently unfair and abusive agitation to impose even greater restrictions on the showing of American pictures."

Johnston pointed out that this move-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Allied Board Will Discuss M.P. Forum

Washington, Jan. 27.—Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board of Allied States, said today that Allied's participation in an industry-wide forum will be discussed at its board meeting here on Jan. 31.

Myers said the proposed forum will be discussed in his annual report, in addition to being considered by the board.

Ticket Tax Revenue Is 3rd Highest in History

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The nation's box-offices had the biggest November in history, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue receipts for that month which amounted to $42,182,000. That figure was well over that of Nov., 1945—$29,862,687.

Nov., 1946 collections were the third highest monthly returns in history, equal only to Sept., 1946 and Sept., 1945.

Revenue receipts from the Broadway area representing November business amounted to $4,891,301. The report from the Third New York Internal Revenue District (Manhattan above 23rd Street), showed a $900,000 increase over November 1945.

November tax returns were collected by the Treasury Department during December and early January. Due to collection ramifications the Bureau is running approximately two months behind in announcing returns.

See Fall Hearing For Decree Appeals

Washington, Jan. 27.—Indications are that the U. S. Supreme Court will be unable to hear appeals from the New York Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust suit before the court term starting next October.

"Judging from the large record of the case and the crowded docket of the Supreme Court this term, it seem unlikely that appeals would be heard before next term," a Court clerk commented.

Goldwyn Will Lease Theatres for 'Lives'

Samuel Goldwyn has formed Samuel Goldwyn Pictures, Inc., which will lease theatres for the purpose of exhibiting "The Best Years of Our Lives," produced by his Samuel Goldwyn Productions, Inc.

The exhibitions will be de luxe, pre-release engagements in selected theatres throughout the U. S. General release will not take place until after Jan. 1, 1948. Arrangements have been made with RKO Radio to assist in the acquisition of such theatres and in the physical servicing of the picture.

New Tests in Color Television Battle

Columbia Broadcasting's fight to put its color television system in operation on a commercial basis, strongly opposed by RCA, Philco and Du Mont, among others, was carried on in the U. S. courthouse here yesterday when a demonstration was given by CBS before the Federal Communications Commission.

A half-hour "live" show originating in the network's studios at 485 Madison Avenue, was telecast to the court room, where FCC chairman Charles B. Denny and commissioners Ray

(*Continued on page* 10)

Hope for Reversal On Bidding Seen

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 27.—Robert T. Barton, Jr., attorney for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, today expressed the belief that the U. S. Supmere Court may entirely eliminate competitive bidding from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit.

Speaking at the annual convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina at Hotel Charlotte, Barton said the present decree is an improvement over the opinion of last June, but added: "Perhaps if the court had had the objections of the exhibi-

(*Continued on page* 7)

Kansas-Missouri Sets 8 Regionals

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 27.—Regional meetings in the Kansas City exchange area, projected by the Kansas-Missouri Theatre Association, have been set, to begin March 10. Hosts have been designated for each meeting town, they have accepted the appointments, and have made preliminary arrangements in conferences with directors of the association. The schedule follows:

Monday, March 10, Abilene, Kans., host, Homer Strowig; Tuesday, March 11, Wakeeney, Kan., host, C. B. Kelly; Wednesday, March 12,

(*Continued on page* 7)

Univ. Reports Record Net of $4,565,219

Income Also at High of $53,934,865 for 1946

Universal Pictures Co., Inc., reporting a net profit of $4,565,219 for the year ended Nov. 2, 1946, broke all records — in net profits, working capital and income from operations—in the company's history, J. Cheever Cowdin, board chairman, and Nate J. Blumberg, president, said in their annual report made public here yesterday.

Net profit for the previous year was $3,910,928. Income from operations last year amounted to $53,934,865, compared with $51,049,428 in the preceding year. Of this amount, domes-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Roadshow for 'Duel' Is Out

"Duel in the Sun," David O. Selznick production, becomes the first roadshow fatality in the light of the prohibition against fixing minimum admission prices under the New York Federal Court decree and will open initial Texas and California dates on a grind policy at advanced prices of $1.50 top, including Federal tax. The decision to charge advanced admissions in both areas was reached by Robert J. O'Donnell for Interstate and Charles P. Skouras for Fox

(*Continued on page* 10)

Asks Film Aid Vs. Anti-Americanism

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—It is the duty of the motion picture industry to disprove falsehoods and distortions about Americans circulated by our "would-be" enemies, Sen. Brien Mc-

(*Continued on page* 7)

In This Issue

"The Macomber Affair" is reviewed on page 7. On page 10 appear estimates of key city grosses.

Coming Events

Today—Mid-winter meeting of the IATSE executive board in Seattle.

Today—Meeting of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Charlotte.

Today—Statewide New Jersey Allied legislative meeting, Stacy-Trent Hotel, Trenton.

Today through Jan. 30—March of Dimes drive with theatre collections generally in the week of Jan. 24.

Jan. 31—National Allied board meeting, Statler Hotel, Washington.

Feb. 2-3—Convention of Virginia Motion Picture Theatres Association, Shoreham Hotel, Washington.

Feb. 7—Press Photographers annual dance, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Feb. 11—Edison Centennial dinner. Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Feb. 15-Mar. 15—Greek War Orphan appeal.

Feb. 16—"American Brotherhood" drive begins.

Selznick Loses in Arbitration Move

Samuel Goldwyn need not submit to arbitration in his dispute with David O. Selznick over occupancy of the Astor Theatre here, Judge Dennis O'Leary Cohalon ruled in New York Supreme Court yesterday.

The two producers, who are joint lessees of the house, have an agreement to take turns using it as a showcase for their product. The agreement contains a clause calling for arbitration of any misunderstandings. Several months ago, when Selznick could not take his turn because a print of "Duel in the Sun" was unavailable, he sought through United Artists to send in Hunt Stromberg's "Strange Woman" to fill the gap until "Duel" would be ready; but Goldwyn, after a number of legal maneuvers, got the Astor for "The Best Years of Our Lives."

Subsequently, Selznick made a claim for damages allegedly suffered through being denied the showcase and sought to invoke the arbitration clause to settle the issue. Goldwyn moved that arbitration be stayed. In granting his motion, Judge Cohalon now holds that Selznick did not have a certificate to do business in New York at the time the agreement was written and that "unlicensed foreign contracts may not be sustained in an action of this sort."

Quigley to Coast

Martin Quigley, publisher of MOTION PICTURE DAILY and *Motion Picture Herald*, and related publications, left New York yesterday for a stay of several weeks in Hollywood.

Personal Mention

GEORGE BAGNALL, United Artists vice-president, has left New York for Hollywood.

•

CARL LESERMAN will leave Hollywood by train for New York on Friday, en route to Europe where he will set up London and Paris offices for Bogeaus Productions.

•

JAMES STEWART and FRANK CAPRA will be guests of Stanley-Warner Theatres at a reception in the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, today.

•

BOB KAUFMAN, 20th Century-Fox exploiteer, will leave New York today for Albany and Chicago.

•

SAM WHEELER, Film Classics' sales manager, has left New York on a Midwestern trip.

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern and Southern division sales manager, has left New York on a Southern tour.

•

LOUIS B. ROSS, Confidential Reports executive, and MRS. ROSS, are parents of a baby girl, born last Thursday at Rockaway Beach Hospital, N. Y.

•

JACK ELLIS, United Artists district manager, and ABE DICKSTEIN, of home office sales, will return to New York tomorrow from Albany.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ of Kay Film Exchanges, Washington and points South, are visiting in New York.

•

ED HINCHY, head of Warners' playdate department, will leave New York today for Chicago.

Expect Portuguese Tax Decree Action

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Ratification by Portugal of the new tax decree which will impose high import rates on American films distributed there is expected within a few days, despite a protest from the U. S. State Department, George Canty, Department film consultant, said today.

The Government protest was not heeded by Portugal because the United States has no commercial trade treaty with that country. The tax will be $400 for each first feature, $200 for each second feature and rates ranging from $8.00 to $20.000 on each American newsreel and short subject distributed in Portugal.

Purpose of the new tax rate, according to the State Department, is to provide funds for a national motion picture institute in Portugal which would stimulate domestic production of pictures. The decree was passed by Government officials in Portugal on Jan. 1, but is not official til the congress ratifies it.

Canty expressed the belief that there is only a "slim chance" that e decree will be amended.

J. Hodes To Assist Weisfeldt of E-L

Jerome Hodes, for many years with RKO-Radio sales, has joined Eagle-Lion Films as assistant to M. J. Weisfeldt, E-L special sales representative, A. W. Schwalberg, vice-president and general sales manager announces. Hodes will make his headquarters in New York.

Griffiths in UK to Represent Lesser

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—David E. Griffiths, veteran distribution executive in England, has been appointed British representative for Sol Lesser Productions. Griffiths represented International Pictures prior to its merger with Universal.

2nd Phase of RKO Sales Meet Today

Current RKO-Radio releases, including "Notorious," "Nocturne," "Sister Kenny" and "San Quentin" were discussed here yesterday at a Mid-Winter meeting of the company's district managers in the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, with Robert Mochrie, RKO-Radio vice-president and general sales manager, presiding. "Sinbad the Sailor," going into general release in early February, was also discussed, and so was "The Locket," which goes into national release in late February.

Home office executives attending the three-day conclave include Harry Michalson, Walter E. Branson, Nat Levy, M. G. Poller, Harry Gittleson, Frank Drumm, A. A. Schubart, Leon J. Bamberger, Sid Kramer and William J. McShea. Today's discussions will concern Liberty Films' "It's a Wonderful Life," Walt Disney's "Song of the South" and the forthcoming "The Farmer's Daughter."

'IA' Midwinter Meet Opens in Seattle

SEATTLE, Jan. 27.—Executive board of the IATSE opened its midwinter meeting here today, with Richard F. Walsh, president, presiding. Also in attendance are: William P. Raoul, secretary-treasurer, and vice-presidents Harland Holmden, William P. Covert. Floyd M. Billingsley, James J. Brennan, Roger M. Kennedy, Felix D. Snow, Carl G. Cooper, W. C. Barrett and Louise Wright.

New York Bookers Hold Annual Dinner

The Motion Picture Bookers Club of New York held its eighth annual dinner and dance at the Tavern-on-the-Green here last night. Oscar Lager of the Moses Circuit, president of the club, and other newly-elected officers were installed.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HELD OVER! 'The JOLSON STORY' In TECHNICOLOR
Larry PARKS Evelyn KEYES
IN PERSON
BARRY GRAY
LIONEL KAYE
JOHNNY DOWNS
BONNIE BAKER

Loretta Young · David Niven
in HAL WALLIS production
The Perfect Marriage
A Paramount Picture
in Person THE MILLS BROS. OLGA SAN JUAN TIM HERBERT · ELLIOT LAWRENCE and His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 50th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

400 Boycott Films For Moral Reasons

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—Following an address by the Rev. Thomas McCarthy, editor of *The Tidings*, 400 members of the Sodalists, Catholic high school youth organization, have adopted the following resolution: "We, representative of the Catholic youth in Los Angeles, resolve never to attend 'Duel in the Sun,' and not to attend any other picture, good or bad, for one month as a protest against immoral pictures filmed or being filmed."

In his address, Father McCarthy said in part: "Let us protest in the strongest terms in the area where men who live by money will feel it most."

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BOGART

is out with a new

WOMAN..

HUMPHREY
BOGART

ELIZABETH
SCOTT

in JOHN CROMWELL'S

Dead R

Introducing A New Song Hit
"Either It's Love Or It Isn't"
BY ALLAN ROBERTS AND DORIS FISHER

"I forgot to tell you.
I don't trust anybody
... especially women!"

eckoning

with

MORRIS CARNOVSKY · CHARLES CANE · WILLIAM PRINCE · MARVIN MILLER · WALLACE FORD

Screenplay by Oliver H. P. Garrett, Steve Fisher

Directed by JOHN CROMWELL · Produced by SIDNEY BIDDELL

A COLUMBIA PICTURE

"I didn't want any part of her!
"...but I kept smelling that jasmine in her hair...
"and I wanted her in my arms...
"Yeah...I knew I was walking into something!"
HUMPHREY BOGART
LIZABETH SCOTT
IN JOHN CROMWELL'S
DEAD RECKONING
with
MORRIS CARNOVSKY · CHARLES CANE · WILLIAM PRINCE · MARVIN MILLER · WALLACE FORD
Screenplay by Oliver H. P. Garrett, Steve Fisher
Directed by JOHN CROMWELL · Produced by SIDNEY BIDDELL
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
COLUMBIA PICTURES
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

ATA Seeks to Save US Film Channel

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Executives of the American Theatres Association may testify before the House Appropriations Committee to urge continuation of the film division of the Office of Government Reports, sources within the Government disclose. It is said that ATA desires to see a general clearing house for all Government film matters.

It was ATA which recommended that President Truman designate the Office of Reconversion as the single Federal agency liaison between the Government and the film industry. When this agency was dissolved, the President re-created OGR, to where the film section was transferred.

President Truman has requested that Congress appropriate funds to continue the film unit. Congressman John Taber, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said that his group will not approve the expenditure unless it is displayed that the section is necessary "without a question of doubt."

A spokesman for the American Theatres Association here yesterday confirmed that the ATA is interested in the continuance of a clearing house for all Government film matters and will take steps to encourage Congress to make this possible.

Funeral Services for Grace Moore in N. Y.

Funeral services for Grace Moore, opera and film star, who was killed in an airplane crash in Copenhagen, over the weekend, are tentatively scheduled to be held in New York, according to press dispatches reaching here last night. Interment will probably be in her native Tennessee.

Miss Moore, 43, had been on a European concert tour at the time of her death. She had risen to fame in the international concert and opera fields from an insconspicuous start in a small-town church choir. She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera, here, in 1928, and in 1930 made her first motion picture. Among her films were "One Night of Love," "Love Me Forever," "When You're in Love" and "I'll Take Romance."

Isador Perse, Retired Supply Dealer, Dies

Services will be held at Riverside Memorial Chapel here tomorow for Isador I. Perse, 62, founder of the Capital Motion Picture Supply Co., who died Sunday in Miami.

Surviving, in addition to his widow, are two sons, Benjamin, now president of the business in New York, and Harry, the treasurer, who have carried on since their father's retirement a few years ago. Also surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Alice Gold and Mrs. Jean Lipman; two sisters, Mrs. Tillie Rattinger and Mrs. Mary Mintz, and three brothers, Sidney, Jack and Harry, all of New York. The latter is a projectionist at the Hollywood Theatre here.

Quarberg to California

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27. — Lincoln Quarberg has joined California Pictures Corp. as director of advertising-publicity.

Review

"The Macomber Affair"

(*Bogeaus-United Artists*)

Hollywood, Jan. 27

WITH the names of Gregory Peck, Joan Bennett and Robert Preston nicely clustered for purposes of marquee and advertising copy, this production by Benedict Bogeaus and Casey Robinson, of a story by Ernest Hemingway which got a lot of reading and generated plenty of comment, comes to market as an item easy to sell at box-office profit. It is, additionally, an adult picture, both in subject matter and in the manner of its execution, which appears to suggest that the film, like the story, will be talked about extensively enough to leave no doubt about its commercial career.

The subject matter, conveyed in a well wrought script by co-producer Robinson and Seymour Bennett, differs in essence from most material utilized for pictures. The story opens with the Macombers, played by Preston and Miss Bennett, employing a professional hunter, played by Peck, to take them on a shooting expedition in Africa. There is manifest strain between the Macombers, unexplained but clearly dating from back in the past, and when Preston displays cowardice in the face of a charging lion his wife exhibits plainly her aversion for him and her affection for Peck. It is suggested that she visits the latter in his quarters on the following night, after which she and her husband have harsh words, but Peck dismisses the couple's marital squabble as none of his business. Next day, however, Preston overcomes his fear of animals, and tells his wife that she will have to regard him henceforward as a man rather than as the mouse she has believed him to be. In the next dangerous shooting incident a bullet from the wife's gun kills the husband, and although Peck reports it officially as an accident he believes she killed him intentionally. After dialogue covering all facets of the situation, the film ends with the wife going before the inquest, whether to testify that the shooting was accidental or to confess to murder being left to the audience's choice of endings.

Unique in many respects, the film deals conversationally at length with the relationship between the elation accruing from the slaughter of animals and the emotions which, to quote the dialogue, "make a man a man, and a woman a woman." This type of thing is not commonly dealt with for the very young, and probably will come as news to a majority of grownups who see the film. Direction by Zoltan Korda is steadily effective.

Running time, 90 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Hope for Reversal

(*Continued from page* 1)

tors before it when it was writing the June opinion, it would not have decreed competitive bidding."

Barton said: "There are many trade practices of a controversial character which I believe can be settled by conferences between producers, distributors and exhibitors."

Carl Hoblitzelle, president of Interstate Theatres, Inc., Dallas, urged the theatre owners to be good citizens and be wary of the "Communistic element which is creeping into government and industry."

E. V. Richards, Jr., of New Orleans, temporary chairman of the Motion Picture Foundation, spoke of the work the Foundation intends to do. "The industry has been noted for its charity work for others but not for its own people," he said, adding that the Foundation also would act as a protective agent against general criticism and censorship of the industry.

Wives of the exhibitors were given a luncheon at the Sharon Hills Club. Paramount sponsored a social hour for the exhibitors.

President Ben L. Strozier of Rock Hill, S. C., presided.

'Valor' Plans Dropped

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—Warners has abandoned plans to make a screen version of Charles Jackson's novel, "The Fall of Valor," the studio announced at the weekend. Rights to the novel had been only tentatively acquired, subject to the company's ability to work out a screen play suitable to the Production Code Administration. It is understood that such efforts were not successful.

Asks Film Aid

(*Continued from page* 1)

Mahon (Conn.) told the Senate today.

Speaking on atomic energy control, the Senator pointed out the importance of using every available medium of information to distribute the truth. "By means of the motion picture, by very cultural art and by every media of information, we must tell the good, plain people of the earth the inspiring and fascinating story of Democracy in action," McMahon told the Senate.

The Senator urged continuation of efforts to eliminate barriers imposed against American films and other media. "The State Department is doing an excellent job. If we are to reach people with our culture, we must fight nationalism and the imposition of drastic trade barriers on our product," he added.

W. M. Finney Retires, Sparrow Succeeds

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—Willie M. Finney, southeastern manager of Loew's Theatres, has retired because of ill health. Veteran of 40 years with Loew's, he will make his home in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Allen Sparrow will succeed Finney. He comes from Loew's Midwestern division, stationed in Columbus, O., Norfolk and Richmond, Va.

7 'Quentin' 'Premieres'

A series of area premieres for "San Quentin" will be staged by RKO Radio starting tomorrow at the Grand, Cincinnati, and Palace, Chicago. Lawrence Tierney, star of the picture, will make personal appearances in both cities as well as in Louisville, Indianapolis, Columbus and Dayton, accompanied by Harry Reiners of Terry Turner's home office exploitation staff.

14 Short Subjects in Academy Selections

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—Five one-reelers, four two-reelers and five cartoons, have been nominated by the Academy for annual awards selection, as follows:

Cartoons, "Cat Concert," M-G-M; "Chopin's Musical Moments," Lantz; "John Henry and Inky Poom," Paramount; "Squatter's Rights," Disney; "Walky Talks Hawky," Warner. One-reelers, "Dive Champs," Paramount; "Facing Your Danger," Warners; "Golden Horses," 20th-Fox; "Smart As a Fox," Warners; "Sure Cures," M-G-M. Two-reelers, "Boy and His Dog," Warners; "College Queen," Paramount; "Hiss and Yell," Columbia; "Luckiest Guy in the World," M-G-M.

Academy also announced 16 more shorts and two features, representing the United States and five foreign countries, have been made eligible for consideration in the documentaries division, with screenings scheduled for February 2, 4 and 6.

Kans.-Missouri Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

Dodge City, Kan., host, B. F. Adcock, manager of Fox theatres; Thursday, March 13, Wichita, Kan., hostess, Mrs. T. H. Slothower; Friday, March 14, Independence, Kan., host, Bill Wagner; Tuesday, March 25, Hamilton, Mo., host, Harry Till; Wednesday, March 26, Appleton City or Osceola, Mo., host, Chet Borg; Thursday, March 27, Neocho, Mo., host, Harley Fryer.

Officers Will Attend

Strowig, president of the association; C. E. Cook secretary, and several other officers and directors will attend each regional meeting. All exhibitors of the regions where meetings are set will be invited to attend, whether members of the association or not. Subjects to be discussed will include all of the "regular" ones, and also topics or problems brought up by exhibitors at the sessions.

$7,500 Studio Fire

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27. — The fire which broke out in Enterprise's cutting rooms on Sunday caused damage to the extent of an estimated $7,500.

Monte Carlo

"PREVIEW ROOM"

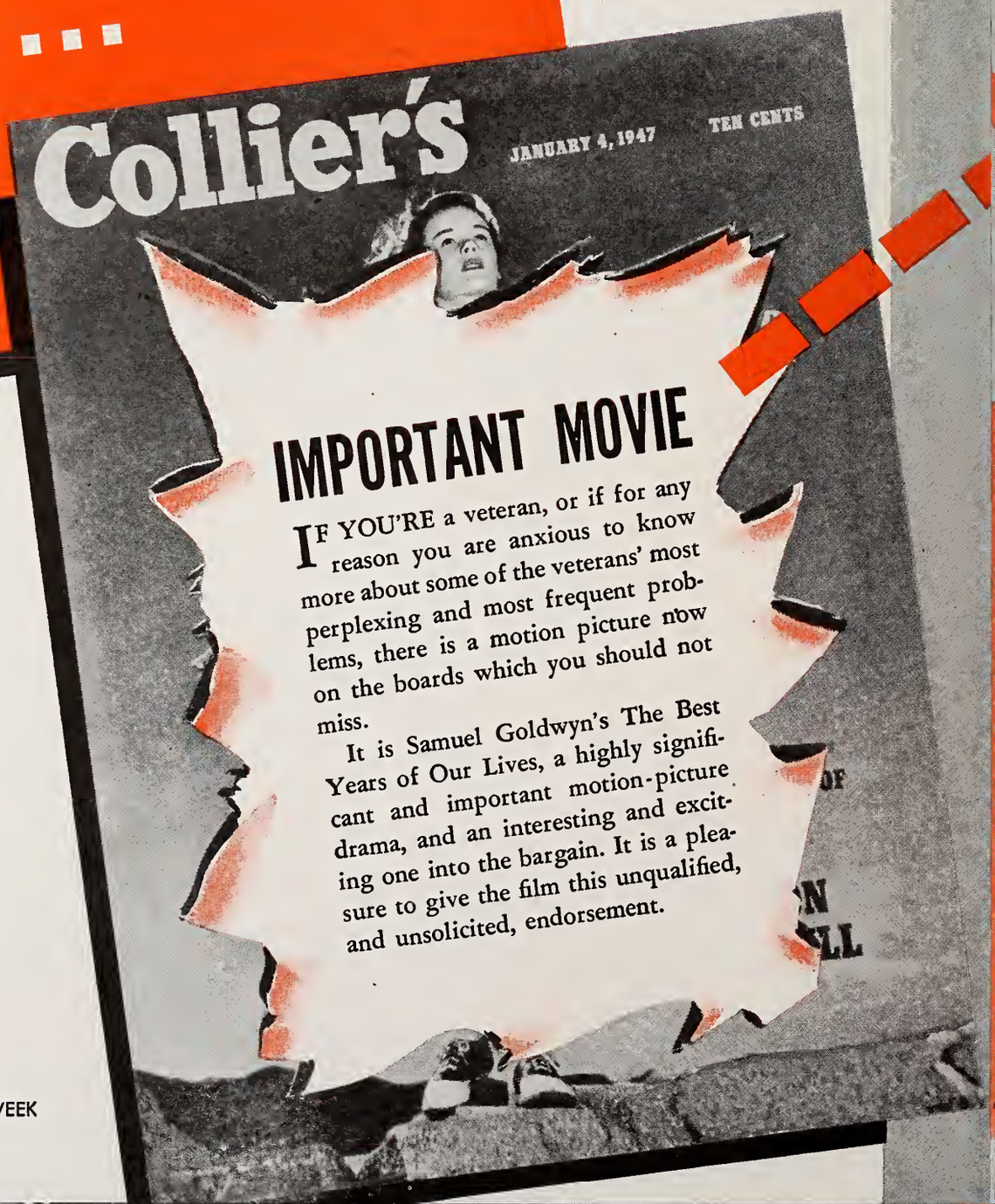
. . . will really SELL your picture.

Fully equipped for 35MM, 16MM, and Slide Projection.

Cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners served in this versatile room — setting a gay mood for a favorable reaction to your film.

MADISON AVENUE at 54th St.
New York, N. Y.
Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

THE NATION'S BEST MAGAZINES ARE GIVING IT THEIR BEST...



AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK
FEBRUARY 16-23

and

IMPORTANT BOX-OFFICE

too!

"Two-a-day at the Esquire Theatre in Boston with record four-weeks-in-advance sale yields absolute capacity turnaway each evening! Word of mouth is terrific!" — HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S

"The BEST Years of Our Lives"

starring

MYRNA LOY • FREDRIC MARCH • DANA ANDREWS
TERESA WRIGHT • VIRGINIA MAYO • HOAGY CARMICHAEL

Directed by **WILLIAM WYLER** • Screenplay by **ROBERT E. SHERWOOD**
From a Novel by **MacKINLAY KANTOR** • Director of Photography **GREGG TOLAND**

RELEASED BY RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Univ. Reports

(Continued from page 1)

tic operations accounted for a record $30,809,450 against $28,707,500, while foreign revenue brought in an all-time high of $23,125,415, compared with $22,341,928 in the preceding year. The 1946 foreign revenue amounted to 43 per cent of the company's total income.

Taxes last year amounted to $3,629,486. Net working capital increased to $29,278,995, from $23,030,555 in the previous year. Current and working assets were $36,313,130 and current liabilities were $7,034,135. Inventories increased $2,553,002 during the year, to a total of $21,665,043.

The report notes that with the acquisition last year of the assets of International Pictures and, partly because of the new selling method prescribed by the New York Federal Court decree, Universal will make 25 top-quality pictures this season instead of the approximately 50 features of different budget scales released annually heretofore.

Hits Court Ruling

"Under the court ruling," the report states, "it has become impossible for a company to sell in advance on a firm contract basis its year's program of pictures. The changes in selling methods are likely to have the effect of increasing the cost of marketing pictures."

The report notes further that Universal will distribute, under its arrangements with J. Arthur Rank, a number of British pictures in addition to Universal-International product. British pictures already distributed here have met with a "very favorable reception," it was stated.

Stockholders are advised that Universal has initiated its program of acquiring theatre showcases; that it has arranged to have built for it 31 new film exchanges and that it has entered the narrow-guage film market on a large scale through its subsidiary, United World Films.

The report is the 10th annual statement since Universal's change of ownership in 1936 when a deficit of $1,985,860 was reported for that year on an operating income of $17,415,636.

The annual meeting of Universal stockholders is scheduled to be held on March 12, the company announced yesterday.

Bell & Howell Dividends

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Preferred quarterly dividends of $1.06 a share were voted upon at a board of directors meeting of Bell and Howell here. The board also voted a 12½-cent per share quarterly dividend on the common stock.

MARTIN JOHNSON'S
ADVENTURE
EPIC
CONGORILLA
For Foreign Rights—Cable
FILM RIGHTS EXPORT Corp.
1600 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS "FILMRIGHTS"

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BALTIMORE

Holdovers are not helping business, which until this week had been far better than average since the recent holiday season. However, managers are pleased that matinees are drawing better crowds than has been the case for many months. Weather is perfect, and nothing offers any outside competition. One new, first-run house, the Town, opened here this week. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 30:

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,500) (35c-44c-55c-60c and 65c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $12,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $17,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) With stage show. 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER (Siritzky)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,500)

HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,475) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000.

CINCINNATI

For straight film gross, "Blue Skies" is giving the RKO Albee the best week in quite some time, with plus the double house average in sight. Other offerings, with holdovers in the majority, are recording fair figures. Weather is mild, with occasional rain. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28-31:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $15,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $10,000)

TWO-FISTED STRANGER (Col.) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,600. (Average: $1,600)

COUNTER-ATTACK (Col. reissue) and ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY (Col. reissue)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,100. (Average: $1,100)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,000)

SWELL GUY (U)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 5 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average for 7 days: $7,500)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 5th week, following two weeks at the Grand, a moveover week at the Shubert and a fourth moveover week at the Lyric. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000)

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week, following two weeks at the Palace and a moveover week at the Shubert. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000)

SMPE Field

(Continued from page 1)

hearings on Feb. 4 in an effort to "retain and establish proper frequency allocations for theatre television," Ryder said, adding that this assignment has been approved by Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association President; Byron Price, head of the MPA's, Hollywood office, and Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers.

Noting that the SMPE's expanded activities probably will lead to increased membership and possibly backing from groups other than the manufacturers, exhibitors and producers which now sponsor the society, Ryder indicated that the move was made necessary by the imminence of theatre television, which he expects to become a reality for the showing of special events before the end of 1947.

Ryder sees this year's development, limited to key houses, as a "first phase" in which special events will be televised to central points in a number of cities and there recorded on films within five or 10 minutes and rushed to projectors in that form. A second, fairly expensive phase, in his opinion, will find the television images thrown directly on special screens. Then, in a final phase that is several years away, screens adaptable to both television and films will be devised and placed in general use, he believes.

Television Tests

(Continued from page 1)

Wakefield, Paul Walker, Ewell Jett and Rosel Hyde and close to 300 others studied the pictorial reception on two receivers.

The program's subject matter comprised a fashion show in which brilliantly colored gowns were displayed, along with multi-colored paintings and a demonstration by two boxers and a singer.

Dr. Peter D. Goldmark, inventor of the CBS color sequential system, emphasized that contrast rather than brightness is the principal factor in television. He undertook to drive home his point with a demonstration involving two Kodachrome slides projected on different screens.

Additional demonstrations will be made today, while tomorrow RCA will show its all-electronic system of color video at an FCC hearing in Princeton, N. J.

AFM's Petrillo and Broadcasters Agree

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, and heads of the four national networks have reached an agreement on extension of their contract for another year. The present pact expires Jan. 31.

Under the accord, representatives of the union in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles will negotiate with the networks on a local basis in the matter of new pay scales.

Johnston Hits

(Continued from page 1)

ment toward further British hindrances to U. S. film trade comes on the eve of the Geneva conferences designed to work out a "mutually beneficial program for world trade revival and expansion."

"I must remind our friends abroad that they can't expect America to make all the concessions," he warned. "America alone can't give the world freer and expanded trade."

Johnston said that the Republican Party should support America's reciprocal trade program as a "necessary measure" for world prosperity.

Reciprocal Trade Pacts Assailed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Sen. Hugh Butler (Neb.) today assailed the State Department's reciprocal trade agreement program as a "gigantic hoax on the American people."

Taking exactly the opposite view to that expressed today by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, in an address at Rochester, Sen. Butler told the Senate that the "State Department's crisis-boys are utilizing public ignorance of the implications of tariff reductions" to negotiate trade pacts.

Commenting on the reduction of tariffs, the senator said: "The masterminds in the State Department even now are planning further tariff reductions which will lower our standard of living."

The Senator concluded by recommending that Congress take away the State Department's authority to make reciprocal agreements with other nations.

No 'Duel' Roadshow

(Continued from page 1)

West Coast, according to Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of Vanguard distribution.

Opening date in Texas is now scheduled for Amarillo on Feb. 24. Five other key cities in that state are slated to follow, with one day intervening between each new engagement. These cities are Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio. After the first six openings, approximately 24 other Texas cities will launch runs day-and-date.

About March 1, Fox West Coast is scheduled to launch the film in 70 situations in Northern and Southern California. These runs also are planned as day-and-date engagements at $1.50 top, but, in the case of Texas, the state admission tax will be added.

$172,873 for 'Duel'

David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" earned $41,813 in its fourth week in Los Angeles at the Fairfax and Vogue Theatres, the Selznick Releasing Organization disclosed here yesterday, making a total of $172,873 for the four weeks it has played in Los Angeles, the only situation in which it has opened.

Pizor Names Friday

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—Tom Friday of Scranton has been appointed executive secretary of the United Motion Picture Owners of Pennsylvania by president Lewen Pizor, with whom he will work on legislative matters in Harrisburg, state capital.

Romeo was a Bum—

Compared to THE PRIZE BABY!

SHAKESPEARE'S swoon-provoker had his hands full just trying to pitch a little "woo" with *one* innocent femme . . . and then the poor guy lost his book on "porch climbing". . . and had to trade his banjo for a harp.

Now, you take The PRIZE BABY! There's a *lover* who compares to Romeo like a P-38 compares to the horse-and-buggy! The kid's got *class!*

He pitches *his* line to anyone close enough to SEE him . . . and what he doesn't sell on SIGHT . . . he gets over with an EAR-enticing line that brings back Jane Q. Public, her pa, her ma, and the whole family . . . just to find out what the kid's got to *sell!*

Of course, Romeo's handicap was that Shakespeare was born *too early* . . . but The PRIZE BABY is living in this wonderful age . . . that gives him TRAILERS and ACCESSORIES . . . to back up his play . . . to do a job of *convincing* . . . that opens Jane Q. Public's EYES . . . and makes her want to LISTEN, while he woos her . . . to your Box Office!

Yeah . . . when it comes to wooing your public . . . you can count on The PRIZE BABY! He's the *Great Lover* of the industry!

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

12,000,000

readers know about this House! They followed its exciting story for five thrilling weeks... just a small portion of the nationwide audience eagerly waiting to get into every motion picture house to see

"The RED HOUSE"

{see tomorrow's page}

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 20 — NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1947 — TEN CENTS

MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA, 28 WEST 44TH ST., 21ST FL. NEW YORK, N. Y. (6 COPIES)

Map Battle on Taxing Films As a 'Luxury'

Lee Sees Danger of 20% Levy Becoming 'Routine'

By TOM LOY

The 20 per cent Federal tax on admissions stands in danger of becoming "routine" unless exhibitors and their patrons can succeed in a campaign to convince their Congressmen that films do not belong in the class with luxury items on which excise levies are placed, according to Claude F. Lee, public relations director for Paramount, which holds a partnership interest in theatres throughout the country.

Claude F. Lee

Following a discussion of this dan-

(Continued on page 8)

MPA Annual Meet Here on March 26

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, is collecting departmental reports and data for his annual report to the board of directors of the Association, which he will deliver on March 26 in New York.

The ramifications of the West Coast studio jurisdictional strike will be discussed by Johnston. He is also ex-

(Continued on page 8)

Four of 20 for 1947 Set by Schwalberg

Following pre-release engagements of "It's a Joke Son!" and Vera Caspary's "Bedelia," A. W. Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion Films vice-president and general sales manager yesterday announced national release of four of the company's 20-picture 1947 production-

(Continued on page 8)

5 Meet Today On Appeal

It became evident here yesterday that the five theatre-owning distributors will appeal the New York Federal Court's decree decision.

While official confirmation of the decision to bring the case to the U. S. Supreme Court is lacking at this time, "inside sources indicate that counsel for the companies will meet today at the office of John Caskey, 20th Century-Fox counsel, for the purpose of laying the groundwork for appeal action.

This would first take the form of appointment of a committee to draft

(Continued on page 8)

AFL Will Act Upon SAG's Resolution

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—The Screen Actors Guild has announced receipt of notification from the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, which will open a two-week parley at Miami tomorrow, that action will be taken on the Guild's resolution calling for the establishment of permanent arbitration machinery for the settlement of jurisdictional disputes in the motion picture industry.

SAG president Robert Montgomery had wired AFL president William

(Continued on page 8)

'U' Will Continue to Build 'Showcases'

Along with its new exchange program, Universal intends to continue acquiring "show case" theatres, John J. O'Connor, "U" vice-president, discloses here, indicating that the extent of the company's entry into exhibition may depend somewhat on whether the New York Federal District Court's tight ban on franchise agreements is eventually sustained by the U. S. Supreme Court. At present 'U' is operating the Park Avenue and Winter Garden theatres here and Keith's in Cincinnati.

Carolina Owners Re-Elect Strozier

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 28.—Ben L. Strozier of Rock Hill, S. C., was re-elected president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina at the closing session of its 35th annual convention at the Hotel Charlotte.

Charles H. Arrington of Rocky Mount and J. C. Long of Charleston, S. C., were elected vice-presidents, and Mrs. Pauline Griffith of Charlotte was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Most prominent among resolutions

(Continued on page 8)

Jack Warner to British: End Criticism of US Films

LONDON, Jan. 28. — Active intergland and the United States, workchange of motion pictures by Ening in a spirit of mutual cooperation instead of criticizing each other, was urged by Jack L. Warner, vice-president and executive producer of Warner Brothers, in addressing Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, high government officials, editors and film critics at a luncheon given here today in Warner's honor by directors of Associated British Picture Corp., in whose theatre subsidiary Warners own substantial interests. Host at the lunch was Sir Phillip Warter, chairman of the board of ABPC.

Jack L. Warner

Warner's challenge followed the recent declarations by some British producers and exhibitors insisting that ABPC be "de-Americanized." This was answered also today by Warner's observation that he could justifiably make the claim that the company was the pre-war producer of the greatest number of British pictures, a condition which he said might have continued if the British government had not requisitioned studios.

Britain owes a vast debt to Americans, particularly to Warner Brothers, Warter declared, disclosing that Warners are doing as much as the English in behalf of England's films. Warter then announced that he had

(Continued on page 8)

ATA Fight on Objectionable Pictures Seen

Convention To Consider 'Going After' Producers

The American Theatres Association, alarmed by possible damage its exhibitor members may suffer as a result of films and advertising which draw the fire of church and censorship groups, is considering a campaign to discourage the production of such pictures, according to an ATA spokesman, who mentioned "The Outlaw" and "Duel in the Sun" as two which tend to prompt the anticipated move.

This problem, as well as numerous others concerning ATA's

(Continued on page 8)

Urges US Women Oppose 'Dope' Fil

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—In a to the 21st Women's Confere National Defense, Mrs. Eugene er, wife of the publisher of the *W ington Post*, urged American won to register with Eric Johnston, M tion Picture Association presid their opposition to the production films which deal with narcotics.

"I have been assured by leaders of the film industry," Mrs.

(Continued on page 8)

Goldmark, Du Mont In Color Video Row

Hearings on the petition of Columbia Broadcasting for Federal Communications Commission approval to put its color television system on a commercial basis continued at New York Federal Court house yesterday with Dr. Peter Goldmark, inventor of the CBS system, testifying that the method is completely developed, while

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

"Bedelia" is reviewed on page 6. Estimates of key city grosses appear on page 10.

Personal Mention

JERRY WALD, Warner producer, will leave New York today for the Coast, and will stop over in Chicago en route.

•

SIDNEY G. ALEXANDER, motion picture director of Brisacher, Van Norden and Staff, advertising agency, will leave New York by train for the Coast Friday. He will remain three weeks.

•

WILLIAM W. BRUMBERG, manager of Warners' field public relations staff, addressed the Motion Picture Council of Central Queens at Jamaica, L. I., yesterday.

•

WILLIAM J. GERMAN, president of Jules Brulatour, Inc., left New York last night for a brief visit to Rochester.

•

ARGYLE NELSON, Vanguard studio manager, and JOSEPH AUGUST, cameramen, are en route back to the Coast after a visit here.

•

CHESTER FRIEDMAN, editor of the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald*, is in Harrisburg from New York.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Southern and Canadian division sales manager for Universal-International, is in Nashville from New York.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warners' vice-president and general sales manager, is back in New York from the Midwest.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, general manager of Warner Theatres, left New York yesterday for Chicago, Milwaukee and Oklahoma City.

•

AL DAFF, Universal foreign department executive, has returned to his office here following recovery from a prolonged illness.

•

GEORGE M. JONES, Republic sales representative, Atlanta, is celebrating his 25th anniversary in the industry this week.

•

JOE SCHULLY, special home office representative of Republic, is visiting Atlanta from New York.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, head of M-G-M's reprints and importations, is in Chicago from New York.

•

ROY HAINES, Western division sales manager for Warners, is due back in New York from the Coast today.

•

STEVE FITZGIBBONS and MICKEY ANDELMAN of Devonshire Film Co., Boston, are in New York.

•

OSCAR A. MORGAN, Paramount short subjects sales chief, left New York by train yesterday for Atlanta.

•

WALTER PIDGEON is in New York from Hollywood.

RKO Radio Holds 2nd Sales Session

Ned E. Depinet, RKO executive vice-president, led the speakers on company policy and product at yesterday's session of the mid-winter sales meeting of RKO Radio district managers in the Waldorf-Astoria, here. Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio vice-president and general sales manager, is presiding at the three-day conclave, which ends tomorrow.

Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager, and his assistant, Sid Kramer, outlined the 1947-48 short subject program which will be augmented by one new series, to be announced later.

Gordon Youngman, vice-president and general counsel for RKO Radio, also spoke and so did William Zimmerman, sales executive. S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity, outlined large scale pre-release campaigns on forthcoming product and Terry Turner, exploitation manager, spoke on new plans for merchandising pictures.

Leon J. Bamberger, sales promotion manager, addressed the meeting, which was also attended by Roy Disney and William Levy, representing the Walt Disney organization; James A. Mulvey and Arthur Sachson, Samuel Goldwyn Productions, and E. K. (Ted) O'Shea of Liberty Films.

Today's sessions will be taken up by individual meetings between district managers and their respective division managers: Nat Levy for the Eastern and Walter E. Branson for the Western Division. This will be preceded by a showing of "The Farmer's Daughter," a Dore Schary production.

International Dates For 'Beginning'

International world premieres, with simultaneous openings in Washington, London, New York, Ottawa, Canada, and Sydney, Australia, will be held for "The Beginning or the End," M-G-M's story of the atom bomb, on Feb. 20.

Immediate release of the picture throughout the world will follow the premieres, simultaneous engagements in 150 cities in the U. S. being booked for the opening week.

Producers File New Motion in Labor Tilt

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Federal Judge Ben Harrison today took under advisement a motion by counsel for the producers for dismissal of a suit brought against them by a group of carpenters.

The plaintiffs charge a conspiracy to prevent them from working in the studios.

AMPA Meeting

Rutgers Neilson, AMPA president, has called a meeting of the board of directors of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers and 30th anniversary committee to meet in his office in the RKO Building tomorrow.

Seek Uniform State Laws to Avoid Fires

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28.—Adoption of modern fire protection standards, to be embodied in uniform state legislation, for all places of public assembly, including theatres, is urged by Curtis W. Pierce, of New York, president of the National Fire Protection Association, at a conference here of 700 civic representatives and fire authorities to discuss the recent outbreak of fires and to draft preventive legislation.

Proposals to be included in suggested measures are: protection of all vertical openings in buildings to prevent spread of fire; automatic protection systems to insure the rapid detection of fire and a speedy response of fire departments; two safe exits from every part of every building, and complete automatic sprinkler systems in frame buildings.

Berge Urges Trial Of Bidding Method

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The only way for the industry to test the workability of the competitive bidding system is to try it, Wendell Berge, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Anti-Trust Division of the Justice Department, said here today.

Berge declined to discuss in detail the various faults of the bidding system. He admitted, however, that the system contains many loose ends, and said that it has "unlimited ramifications."

There is no doubt at the Department about the validity of various questions which have arisen as a result of the court-fostered bidding plan.

Berge expressed the belief that the industry should be willing to try the bidding system, let experience be the guide for changes and, if any suffering results, the court is bound to discontinue it.

Baronat Named by Foreign Publicists

The International Film Relations Committee yesterday elected Fortunat Baronat, of Universal-International, as chairman for one year, succeeding Leslie Whelan, of 20th Century-Fox International.

The group, which met at the office of the Motion Picture Association, works on general foreign film promotional matters.

Navy Cites PRC

Producers Releasing Corp. yesterday was notified by the Third Naval District that the company has been awarded the Navy "Certificate of Achievement" for "recognition of outstanding services to Naval personnel during World War II."

Luncheon for Taplinger

Robert Taplinger, advertising-publicity director for Enterprise Productions, will be the guest of United Artists at a press luncheon at the 21 Club here on Friday. UA releases for Enterprise.

Newsreel Parade

THE war in Indo-China, the elec tion in France and a variety o sports-events are featured in the cur rent newsreels. Full contents follow

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 44—Worl events: fighting in Indo-China, new Frenc leader, Gandhi's peace march, inside Com munist China, Lehr says hello to his uncl —a hairy relative. Shorts: Wiscon in ic boats go scooting, Florida dog raci Mid dlebury, Vt. College ski carnival.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 242—New French republic born, Auriol elected presi dent. Mahatma Gandhi's last mission Flaming war in Indo-China. First films o Communist China. U. S. Supreme Court photographed. Jungle king in captivity Dog racing in Miami. Ice "yachting" in Wisconsin.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 45—Boston indoor track gets going. Report from Yenan. France: Fourth Republic takes shape. Golden wedding: Adolph Zukor, film pioneer honored. War communique: French smash on in Indo-China.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 47—Selassie reviews troops. Fierce battle rages in Hanoi. Polish envoy arrives. Greek ship hits a mine. Auriol heads French Republic. First films of Communist China.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 8—French Assembly elects 13 representatives at Paris. French forces continue mopping up in Indo-China. French rivers jammed with ice, canal traffic halted in Holland as winter hits Europe. Latin students arrive as delegates to Youth Forum. Dog races in Miami. Ice boat regatta in Oshkosh, Wis.

Dr. DeForest Honored, Going to Mexico

Dr. Lee de Forest, honorary president of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association, was given a farewell dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria last evening. Leaders of the radio industry were present and the VWOA presented to him a scroll of honor as one more token of the world's appreciation of his lifetime efforts.

A gold medal was presented to him earlier in the day by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He is going to teach young Mexicans how to shoot television scenes.

Cars to Stoner, Wobber

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28.—Buck Stoner, district manager, for 20th Century-Fox, and Herman Wobber, were recipients of new Cadillacs for their record totals in the Spyros Skouros 20th Century sales drive.

Para. Manager Missing

K. W. Poon, Paramount branch manager in Chungking, is listed as a passenger on the CUAC plane reported missing last Saturday. The airliner was making a flight from Canton to Chungking, and is still being sought in the hills of Szechwan Province near Chungking, Paramount's home office foreign department reported here yesterday.

Columbia Signs Starr

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Producer Irving Starr, formerly with M-G-M and previously with 20th Century-Fox, has signed to produce for Columbia.

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HAVE A HEART, M-G-M!

Now it's THE YEARLING at
Radio City Music Hall—
We just finished 7 weeks of
handling the mobs for M-G-M's
'Till The Clouds Roll By'—
They tell me it broke
all records at the Hall!
Oh, my aching feet!
From the looks of things
THE YEARLING
will top it!"

*(You're right, officer!
M-G-M's Prize Picture
is off to a terrific start.
The reviews are ecstatic!
The audiences rave about it.
Call us up officer and this
time we'll give you a ticket!)*

EVERYTHING YOU'VE WANTED

every compelling element that makes for *HAPPY BOX-OFFICE!*

***...ALL YOURS...* in *"I'LL BE YOURS"!**

***POWERFULLY PRE-SOLD WITH A**

IN A DURBIN PICTURE!...

STARS...

Exciting DEANNA DURBIN
...Singing, loving, having fun!

Sensational TOM DRAKE
...The Screen's new romantic star!

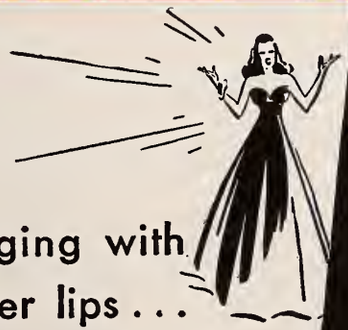
Hilarious WILLIAM BENDIX
...That "Life of Riley" favorite!

Merry Mad ADOLPHE MENJOU
...A riot in his grandest role!

STORY...

The merriest boy-girl escapade in years...spiced with the kind of romance that makes them yell for more!

SONGS...



Deanna . . . Singing with her heart on her lips . . . as only she can sing of love! Hear the applause for "It's Dream Time", "Sari Waltz", "Granada"!

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents

Deanna DURBIN *Tom* DRAKE *William* BENDIX

I'll be Yours

with Adolphe MENJOU

WALTER CATLETT • FRANKLIN PANGBORN • WILLIAM BROOKS

Produced by FELIX JACKSON • Directed by WILLIAM A. SEITER • Associate Producer: HOWARD CHRISTIE
Adapted by FELIX JACKSON • From the Screenplay "The Good Fairy" by Preston Sturges • Based on a comedy by Ferenc Molnar
Translated and Adapted by Jane Hinton • Director of Photography: Hal Mohr, A.S.C. • A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

NATIONAL MAGAZINE CAMPAIGN!

Workers in Britain Ask Quota Change

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The Film Industry Employes Council has issued a memorandum recommending abolition of the distributors' quota and division of the exhibitors' quota into categories for first features, second features and short subjects.

The group further recommends that the three large British circuits be reduced in size, that state-owned theatres be established, that a new council be established with broader powers than the present Cinematograph Films Council, that there be a government film bank for financing production and also a government distribution organization.

In the quota laws, it is suggested, minimum labor cost clauses should be established for both features and short subjects, equalling four-fifths of the total labor production costs paid to British subjects.

FIEC also calls for the establishment of fair trading arrangements between the distributors and producers of short subjects and for special taxes on the box-office receipts of foreign films shown in this country.

Butterfield Parent Company Elects

DETROIT, Jan. 28.—At a meeting of the board of directors of Bijou Theatrical Enterprises, holding company of W. S. Butterfield Theatres, the following officers were elected today: Lawrence E. Gordon, president; William A. Ruble, vice-president; Olive M. Cox, secretary, and George S. Berger, treasurer. Gordon was trustee of the Butterfield estate and former secretary of the company. Ruble is with the Merchants Trust Co. at Lansing. Gordon succeeds the late E. C. Beatty.

Laurence Ginsberg Dies on the Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Laurence Robert Ginsberg, 31, nephew of Paramount vice-president Henry Ginsberg, and a partner of the Mulcahy-Ginsberg Publicity Agency, here, died last night of a heart ailment.

Other survivors include his mother, Mrs. Edith Ginsberg, and uncles Leonard and Dr. Charles Ginsberg of New York.

Marcus Benn, Exhibitor

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28. — Marcus A. Benn, pioneer exhibitor, died on Jan. 23 at his home, here. Benn opened the Belmont Theatre, now the Benson, in 1909 and then built a circuit of theatres and remained active in the industry until his retirement last year when he sold out to Stanley-Warners.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

Review

"Bedelia"

(Eagle-Lion-PRC)

MARGARET LOCKWOOD, who knocked 'em off right and left in "The Wicked Lady," continues pretty and murderous in this British-made film based on a popular novel by Vera Caspary, who also wrote "Laura." She dabbles in husbands and poison—the husbands who take out large life insurance policies in her name, and the poison to remove them for collection purposes. On the printed page, these adventures may have had more than the celluloid shows.

"Bedelia" ranges from fair to middling to good, never remaining constant in any of these brackets. Its opening sequences are talkative and stretched beyond their own dramatic good. Toward the middle stretches, matters improve and tension steps up as the net closes in on Miss Lockwood, who is successfully thwarted in executing murder on Husband No. 4, who is Ian Hunter.

It is the suspicions of the insurance company that launches the investigation. Miss Lockwood, it appears, had a habit of disappearing without visible trace after each marriage and each death. Barry K. Barnes is assigned and eventually succeeds in running truth into its lair. Meanwhile, Miss Lockwood is trying her wiles and her sex on Hunter, who resists the temptations and determines to turn her in. The film ends on a note of justice, the poisoner giving herself up to the police.

Best performances are delivered by Barnes and Hunter. Miss Lockwood comes in a lagging third although she has the principal role. She may fill the eye, but she lacks dramatic strength, at least in this role. It could be that the characterization is more responsible than the actress. But whatever the cause, there is an air of unbelievability and lack of conviction in the Lockwood performance. Lance Comfort's direction ranges from perfunctory to punchy, but generally is uneven. I. G. Goldsmith produced for General Film Distributors, the film having been originally reviewed from London in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of June 24, 1946. Running time 81 minutes. Adult classification. Release date Feb. 1.

RED KANN

Production Off Slightly As Seven Are Finished

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28. — Production has slackened slightly, the shooting index dropping to 41. Seven films were completed, whereas only two new ones went before cameras; the production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "The Crime Doctor's Vacation."

Shooting: "The Corpse Came C.O.D.," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman), "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier), "The Lady from Shanghai."

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

M-G-M

Started: "Song of the Thin Man," with William Powell, Myrna Loy, Keenan Wynn.

Shooting: "The Hucksters," "Song of Love," "The Birds and the Bees," "To Kiss and to Keep."

Monogram

Finished: "Land of the Lawless," "Black Gold."

Shooting: "Tragic Symphony," "Panic."

Paramount

Shooting: "Variety Girl," "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion), "Saigon," "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Indian Summer," "Under the Tonto Rim," "If You Knew Susie."

Republic

Finished: "Bells of San Angelo."

Shooting: "Twilight on the Rio Grande."

Selznick

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Moss Rose," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Mother Wore Tights," "It's Only Human," "The Crimson Key" (Wurtzel).

United Artists

Finished: "Copacabana" (Beacon).

Shooting: "Stork Bites Man" (Comet), "Body and Soul" (Enterprise), "Heaven Only Knows" (Nebenzal), "Vendetta" (California), "The Other Love" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Finished: "Buck Privates Come Home."

Shooting: "Time Out of Mind," "Ivy" (Interwood).

Warners

Finished: "Night Unto Night."

Started: "The Unsuspected" (Michael Curtiz Productions), with Claude Rains, Joan Caulfield, Michael North, Constance Bennett, Marguerite Chapman, Hurd Hatfield.

Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "Dark Passage," "Deep Valley," "The Woman in White."

Thwart Daylight Time Repeal in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 28.—The issue of daylight saving time hit another snag yesterday when the city counselor's office ruled that charter provisions make it impossible to include a planned vote on repeal of the "fast-time" ordinance.

Exhibitors have been pushing the vote by distributing petitions to put the question to the spring election.

Sales for Selznick To be Set by Reiner

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Manny Reiner, general sales manager in Latin America for the Selznick Releasing Organization, has arrived here to confer with David O. Selznick and studio officials. On Feb. 5 he will go on to Mexico City to set up a sales organization and arrange for Mexican distribution of Selznick pictures.

"Duel in the Sun" will have its Mexico City premiere in May, and probably open in Buenos Aires in June, and other South American cities later. Reiner will go to Buenos Aires immediately on completion of his organizational work in the Mexican capital, and will cover several other Latin-American countries before returning to New York. On the trip he will coordinate provisional publicity and distributional plans for Selznick films that were worked out on a six months' tour of Mexico, the West Indies and Central and South America, last summer and fall.

Advance promotional plans for "Duel" south of the border call for a spearhead publicity campaign under direction of Alfred Katz, who has been retained by Selznick to begin an intensive around-the-circuit publicity campaign within the next fortnight. Field men have been engaged to arrange openings in key cities.

"'Duel in the Sun' and other Selznick pictures will each be sold on the basis of individual merit," said Reiner.

Video Row

(Continued from page 1)

Alan B. Du Mont countered the claim with the declaration that the CBS system is "totally inadequate." Both were questioned by FCC Commissioner Charles Denny.

Goldmark stated that the Remington Rand Co. is satisfied with the development of CBS color video and will begin the manufacture of color image orthicon cameras immediately upon approval of the CBS petition.

Du Mont said the CBS system at present actually represents no improvement of the network's color video as it was in 1939.

The hearings shift to Princeton, N. J., today for demonstrations by RCA and Philco. Cross examinations of the proponents and opponents of color television will be made at further sessions in Washington Feb. 10.

Chattanooga Rites For Grace Moore

CHATTANOOGA, Jan. 28.—A funeral service for Grace Moore, opera and motion picture star, who was killed in an airplane crash in Copenhagen last Sunday, will be held here, with burial in the Moore family plot, according to tentative plans announced by the family.

A memorial service for Grace Moore will be held at the Riverside Church, Manhattan, tomorrow at 3:30 P. M.

Moritz Hilder Dead

Moritz Hilder, 81, one of the founders of the Goldwyn Picture Corp., died at his home here last Saturday. Hilder was with Goldwyn from 1917 to 1924 when the company became part of M-G-M.

FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK
"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"
On the street where anything can happen...one wonderful night... EVERYTHING DID!
ALLIED ARTISTS PRODUCTIONS, INC. presents
DON DeFORE · ANN HARDING · CHARLIE RUGGLES · VICTOR MOORE · GALE STORM
in ROY DEL RUTH'S
"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"
with GRANT MITCHELL · EDWARD BROPHY · EDWARD RYAN, JR.
Produced and Directed by ROY DEL RUTH • Associate Producer, Joe Kaufman
Screenplay by Everett Freeman • Story by Herbert Clyde Lewis and Frederick Stephani
Musical Score by Edward Ward • Music and Lyrics by Harry Revel and Paul Webster

ATA Fight

(*Continued from page* 1)

future policies and operation, is expected to come up at the group's second annual convention, to be held in April at either Chicago or San Francisco, with a final decision on the date and place to be determined this week. A meeting of the board of directors may be held before April.

Advocates of ATA's entry in the field of "policing" film content and exploitation point out that often, in the public mind, the motion picture industry is most closely identified with "the theatre down the street" and that widespread newspaper criticism of certain pictures does the exhibitor much harm in his community. This also is true, they declare, of charges of Communism in Hollywood; therefore, that too may come up at the convention.

Hands-off Policy

Other decisions to be reached at the April gathering will concern ATA's "hands-off" policy with regard to trade practices and its advocacy of one annual audience collection for charities aided by the industry. The trade-practice ban is not expected to be lifted unless the Supreme Court should grant the Department of Justice's appeal for divorcement of production and exhibition. As for the charities, ATA is expected to continue its so-far-unsuccessful efforts to get the March of Dimes, Red Cross and other groups together on a single collection. Should that fail, the association probably will cooperate during the coming fiscal year in boosting various drives, as it has done during the past year, but again will steer clear of all collections.

Taxation is another subject expected to be prominent before the convention, with ATA probably continuing to press for a unified approach of all exhibition to federal, state and municipal taxing authorities. The question of cooperation with the government film program likewise is considered certain to come up.

Alliance Possible

ATA officials do not rule out the possibility that an alliance with one or more other national exhibitor organizations may be suggested at the April gathering. They point out that the association has been cooperating closely with MPTOA, the Confederacy of Southern Associations and national Allied with respect to the charity drives and some other activities.

At present, approximately 6,500 houses are in the ATA fold. Of the affiliated circuits, Warners never has joined but National Theatres belongs and many of the Paramount partners are in. The RKO and Loew interests withdrew from the association during this year; but their financial support, pledged when ATA was formed, will continue at least until April, it is understood. Officials of the exhibitor group have not yet heard from any of the major companies regarding their participation during the year ahead.

S. H. Fabian, ATA president, may consent to head the association for another year if he is asked to do so, it is understood, but there is a desire among the group's executives to relieve him of some of the auxiliary duties, such as drive committee work, which has almost automatically gone along with the presidency. They point out that these activities have made the position far more burdensome than was originally anticipated.

Film Taxation

(*Continued from page* 1)

ger at last week's convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, Lee went to Charlotte, where he appeared last night, as banquet toastmaster at the convention of the Theatre Owners of North and Southern Carolina, presenting the subject there as well. He will also attend the Washington meeting of the Virginia Motion Picture Theater Association, Feb. 2-3.

Recalling that the first 10 per cent of the present tax was enacted during World War I, ostensibly as a temporary measure, but never was repealed, Lee says the luxury classification for motion picture admissions is again being taken for granted in the matter of the second 10 per cent, which was added during World War II. He considers it important that theatre interests proceed to get on record as challenging the justice of the luxury designation, making clear that an admission ticket, if not pyramided with special tax levies, is within the means of every wage earner seeking inexpensive recreation. The theatre has proven in many ways that it should be justly classed as a non-essential, Lee points out.

He finds that exhibitors, by and large, have been giving much thought and some action to the tax problem but fears that many may have failed to recognize the trend toward taking this source of public revenue for granted. Noting present indications that the Federal admission tax is about to be continued among other wartime excise levies, Lee feels that now is the time to become active in protesting the luxury dsignation. Regardless of this year's Congressional action, exhibitors and their customers should be on record for the future consideration of Federal, state and municipal taxing authorities, he declares.

'Dope' Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

Meyer said, "that only one such picture will be made. If this is true, why don't they prove it by restoring the Production Code to its original form?"

(Columbia has announced production of "Assigned to Treasury," which deals with the traffic in dope.—**Ed.**)

"Unless the women of the country register their opposition with Mr. Johnston," Mrs. Meyer continued, "we can expect the moving pictures to become the allies instead of the rivals of the narcotic trade."

Drop Scophony Motion

Scophony, Ltd., yesterday withdrew a motion in U. S. District Court here for dismissal of cross claims brought against it by Scophony Corp. of America and Arthur Levy, president of the American company, in connection with the Government's Scophony anti-trust suit. Scophony, Ltd., previously had been dismissed as a defendant in the suit.

MPA Annual Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

pected to discuss foreign trade barriers in detail.

A progress report on legislative measures which affect the industry may also be covered in the report. Also, the educational film activities of the Association will be reviewed by Johnston. He first recommended the MPA educational film program in his message to the board last year.

Johnston is planning to outline Association plans to conduct an industry-wide census. This program has already started but has not reached its peak. Plans include a theatre and production census and a study of the foreign market.

The importance of industry self-regulation will also be stressed by Johnston, who used this as a keynote in his report last year. The MPA leader is also planning to touch on the importance of freedom of the screen. He is expected to recommend several programs to the board, including the census, industry harmony, and more educational film activities.

Carolina Owners

(*Continued from page* 1)

passed by the convention were the condemnation of aisle collections for charity organizations and the Association's conviction of the unfairness of distributors in demanding first-run terms for the re-issue of the better films of the past.

Directors who were elected are: Harold Armistead of Easley, S. C.; George Carpenter of Caldese; H. R. Berry of Hartsville, S. C.; H. E. Buchanan of Hendersonville, R. Glenn Davis of Louisberg, N. C.; H. H. Everett of Charlotte; J. B. Harvey of Clover, S. C.; H. D. Heart of Charlotte; H. Fincey of Charlotte; T. A. Little of Charlotte; George W. Parr of Lancaster, S. C.; Ed Haley of Raleigh; Roy Rowe of Birgaw, and A. F. Sams of Salisbury.

Mack Jackson, president of the Confederacy of Southern Associations and president of the Southeastern Theatre Owners Association, addressed the closing session on problems of exhibitors.

Schwalberg Sets Four

(*Continued from page* 1)

distribution schedule.

With premiere dates in the Interstate Circuit theatres, which began Jan. 21 in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston, garnering record grosses, the national release date for "It's a Joke, Son!" has been established as Jan. 25. "Bedelia," which will have dual premieres today in Harrisburg and Reading, Pa., is listed for national release on Feb. 1.

"The Adventuress" has been scheduled for March 17, and "Lost Honeymoon" has been set for March 29.

Eagle-Lion's initial Broadway engagement will be "Bedelia," to follow the current "Wake Up and Dream" into the Victoria Theatre.

AFL Will Act

(*Continued from page* 1)

Green urging immediate action on the resolution "in order to insure labor peace and further to help us keep the studios under the AFL banner."

'End Criticism'

(*Continued from page* 1)

concluded an agreement with Jack Warner anticipating the expenditure of $4,000,000 for a project to modernize ABPC's Ellstreet studios and to produce films there suitable for the American market, the initial program calling for six "international" features within the next 24 months.

UK Growth Healthy

Warner, who is on a tour and survey of England and the Continent, from Hollywood, told the gathering that, "We at Warner Brothers have watched with interest the post-war development of the British industry. We feel that the growth which has taken place in the United Kingdom is a very healthy thing. There is plenty of room for all of the good pictures which America and England can produce.

"We would both do well not to criticize each other's films too narrowly. We should look for the many things we have in common rather than single out the differences between us," Warner advised.

"Associated British Picture Corporation will produce a series of six pictures at their Elstree Studios, which are now being reconstructed.

"The six productions will be similar in quality to those now produced by Warners in California," said the WB production vice-president, adding: "Warner personnel will be in charge of production of the films, but they will be produced by ABPC.

"The films will be shown throughout the Warner theatre circuit in America and other theatres in the U. S. and Canada which our distribution organization services; in addition they will be distributed by Warners throughout the world. ABPC's share in the returns will be payable in dollars to the corporation here in London," Warner added.

Regular Program

"These pictures will not be distributed as additional pictures in the United Kingdom, but will constitute a part of Warners' regular program. As an example, where we release 18 productions yearly, we will release 15 plus the three made by ABC.

"Once this program is in successful operation, Warners will withdraw from production in the United Kingdom, but we will continue to extend aid to ABC in its future production activities.

"References to ABC (the circuit) being an American-dominated company are ridiculous," Warner declared. While Warners own part of the shares in this company, these shares were purchased at a time when ABC needed aid badly. For those who may not know it, the time of our original interest in ABC was in 1940 when many others had the same opportunity to come to the aid of ABC. The stock purchases have always been approved by the British government."

Five Meet Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

a statement of jurisdiction for the upper court which would include citation of errors which the appellants will claim to be involved in the New York court's findings, conclusions and the decree decision.

NEW

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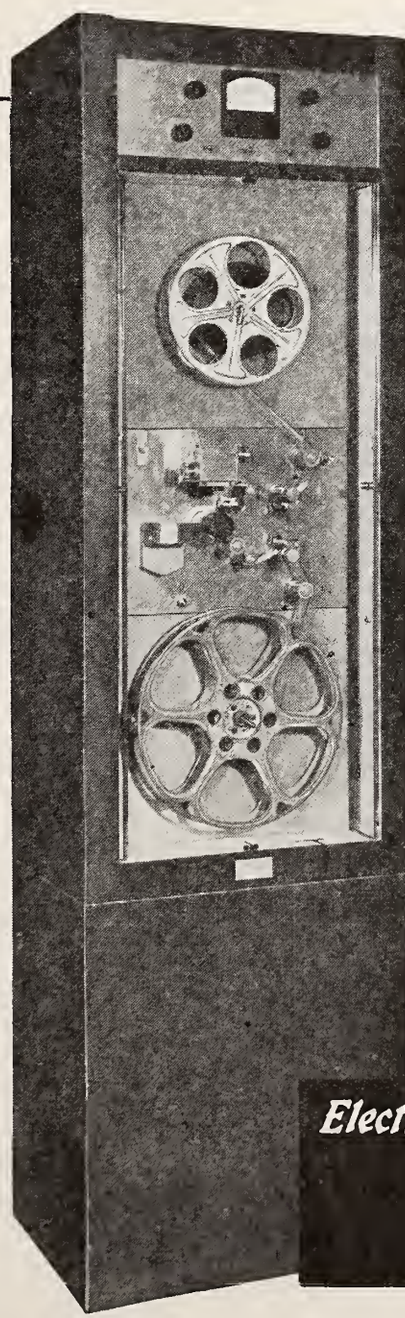
makes re-recording better and easier



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1 With it, you keep flutter down to no more than 0.05% in any particular frequency band and total flutter down to no more than 0.07%.

2 You can play all types of film tracks: variable area or variable density, 100 mil standard, 100 mil push-pull or 200 mil push-pull. The scanning slit covers all existing types of 100 mil and 200 mil tracks without moving optics or film. Visual inspection of scanning is provided for.

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5 During threading, Automatic Loop Setter enables you to lock movable rollers to mid-point operating position, thus assuring accurate setting of loop.

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This radically different re-recorder is the result of an entirely fresh approach to the complex problem of re-recording sound on film.

Engineers of Western Electric's *Electrical Research Products Division* talked with studio technicians—studied their re-recording methods and difficulties—found out where previous equipment could be improved.

Then they designed the RA-1251 to meet the technician's needs and specifications. It marks a tremendous step ahead in appearance and compactness—in efficiency, accuracy, speed and ease of operation—in quality of reproduction!

It is one more evidence of Western Electric's continuing contributions to the technical progress of the industry.

Electrical Research Products Division
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Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Films at advanced admission prices continued to garner the cream of the grosses at first-runs here, although "13 Rue Madeleine" did outstanding business at regular prices. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $8,900)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $16,000.

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,500)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $19,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and THE CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,700)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80). Gross: $25,850.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $7,600)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,200. (Average: $12,700)

SWELL GUY (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $8,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $23,700)

SWELL GUY (U)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $11,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $45,500. (Average: $26,200)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,600)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,100)

THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,800)

RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.) — ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c) $1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $16,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $23,100)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00 $1.25-$1.80) 7 days. Gross: $35,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.) and THE LAST CROOKED MILE (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $24,100)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,400)

SWELL GUY (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,700. (Average: $9,300)

SWELL GUY (U)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)

SWELL GUY (U)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,100)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $21,600)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,100)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,700)

CHICAGO

Business still is good in the Loop, with "Till the Clouds Roll By" opening to outstanding grosses at the United Artists. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29-30:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 5th week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $12,000)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB) — CHICAGO (3,900) (65c-95c). On stage: Diana Lynn. Gross: $60,000. (Average: $60,000)

THE VERDICT (WB)—GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (65c-95c) 5th week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) 3rd week. On stage: Milt Herth trio. Gross: $48,000. (Average: $45,000)

SWELL GUY (U) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,000)

THE PLAINSMAN (Para. reissue) and THE JUNGLE PRINCESS (Para. reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 5th week. Gross: $42,000. (Average: $29,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c). Gross: $42,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 6th week. Gross: $48,000. Average: $20,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

The first onslaught of the rainy season is keeping film patrons at home. With the exception of "13 Rue Madeleine," most films took a dive at the box-office this week. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $14,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and INVISIBLE INFORMER (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $32,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) 4th week. With vaudeville. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $32,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)

TWO SMART PEOPLE (M-G-M) and DECOY (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $23,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) — UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—STATE (1,459) 7 days 2nd week, on moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $13,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $14,000)

THE CHASE (UA) and 'NEATH CANADIAN SKIES (Screen Guild)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $14,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $27,000)

DENVER

The weather and first-run business both have been good. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after a week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $4,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $11,500)

STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Webber, Esquire. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)

STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,500)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $15,500)

THE BACHELOR'S DAUGHTERS (UA) and GINGER (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after two weeks each at Denver, Webber, Esquire, and a week at the Aladdin. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000)

STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,000)

PHILADELPHIA

Although new bookings are doing well, "Till the Clouds Roll By," in its second week, is still out in front. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28-30:

TEMPTATION (U)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $14,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $7,250)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $25,600. (Average: $22,800)

THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Katherine Dunham. Gross: $21,000. (Average, for 7 days: $22,800)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $28,000)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—GOLDMAN (1,400) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $26,000)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $7,800)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M) — KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-90c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,500)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $44,700. (Average: $28,300)

HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $10,800. (Average: $11,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $24,900)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $17,800. (Average: $11,200)

PITTSBURGH

Excellent weather over the weekend brought slightly better than average business. Estimated receipts for the

(*Continued on page* 11)

New Films Reap Fortunes At New York First-Runs

A number of new films are reaping fortunes at New York first-runs and this in spite of Sunday's dreary weather and rain. "The Yearling," "Sinbad the Sailor," "Lady in the Lake," "Dead Reckoning" and "Tower of London" all are making very important box-office showings.

"The Yearling" with a stage show at the Music Hall drew $85,000 Thursday through Sunday, thus indicating a triumphant $139,000 for its first week. A new weekday attendance and resume record was rung up Monday. "Sinbad the Sailor" is the cause of record box-office commotion at the Palace, bringing an amazing $44,000 during the five days ending Sunday night; the first week's figures will wind up around $53,000, a new high for the theatre.

"Dead Reckoning" gave the Criterion a lofty $19,000 on Saturday and Sunday and the total for the first week is expected to reach $50,000. This is short of the record by only $6,000. "Tower of London" has improved with age, it seems, the reissue is heading for a $14,000 first week at the Rialto which is an increase over business brought in by the film at the same theatre in 1939.

"Lady in the Lake," with Tex Benake's orchestra on stage, is providing the Capitol with very healthy income, a total of $93,000 being looked for in the initial week. "The Man I Love" and Charlie Barnet's orchestra are also a capable combination at the Strand where $62,000 for the first week is in view.

"Swell Guy" bowed in at the Winter Garden and the results here, too, are good. Gross for the first week should hit $35,000, which although not a capacity figure, is substantial. "Wake Up and Dream" is doing well enough at the Victoria, where $15,000 is anticipated for the first week. "Her Sister's Secret" is on its way to an estimated $9,500—about fair—in its first week at the Gotham.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" and "13 Rue Madeleine" continue in the top-money bracket. "Madeleine" with Gracie Fields topping a vaudeville show at the Roxy took in a splendid

(*Continued on page* 11)

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Estimates of Key City Grosses

(Continued from page 10)

week ending Jan. 31:

WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,700)
MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $25,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 4th week on moveover from Penn. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $3,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 4th week on moveover from J. P. Harris. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,200)
NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $8,000)

OMAHA

All four first-runs are registering over par in a solid business week. Spring-like weather continues. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29-30:

CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA (UA)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,600)
SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (55c-80c) 7 days. Bob Crosby's Orchestra on stage. Gross: $21,900. (Average: $19,900)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,100. (Average: $11,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,400. (Average: $6,800)

BUFFALO

Spring-like weather and good product, coupled with a stage show, resulted in one of the best weeks of this year or last. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 1:

THE BACHELORS DAUGHTERS (UA)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra on stage in anniversary revue. Gross: $35,700. (Average: $19,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U) and SPOOK BUSTERS (Mono.)—HIPPODROME (2,100)) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,600. (Average: $10,000)
TEMPTATION (Univ.) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,400. (Average: $15,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 4th week on a moveover. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $16,000)

KANSAS CITY

Although "The Jolson Story" is drawing well, business for other films has been spotty. Temperatures have been falling slightly. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28-30:

THE DARK MIRROR (International)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,200. (Average: $8,000)
THE DARK MIRROR (International)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $1,300. (Average: $1,750)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $15,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $10,000)
THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE DARK MIRROR (International)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business has been moderately good, aided by mild weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 28-29:

DECEPTION (WB)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,700)
NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $15,800)
SWELL GUY (U)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $14,000)
THE CAT CREEPS (U) and SHE WOLF OF LONDON (U)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,700)

CLEVELAND

A big weekend compensated for losses during a blizzard as the week opened. "Blue Skies," "The Jolson Story" and "13 Rue Madeleine" are doing outstanding business. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29-30:

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $23,800)
SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)
HENRY V (UA)—LOWER MALL (500) ($1.25-$2.50) 7 days, 5th week. Two-a-day. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,750)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $21,400)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $22,600)
THE DARK MIRROR (International)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,650)

ATLANTA

Theatre business is holding steady. The weather has been clear and warm. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

THE RUNAROUND (U) — FOX (5,661) (55c-60c) With stage show. Gross: $24,000. (Average: ($13,000)
MAKE MINE MUSIC (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c) Gross: $8,400. (Average: $8,200)
MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) 2nd week, on moveover from Fox. Gross: $5,900. (Average: $5,500)
FOOL'S GOLD (UA) and DING DONG WILLIAMS (RKO Radio) — CAPITAL (2,446) (44c-50c) Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,200)
THE SECRET HEART — (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (50c-60c) Gross: $14,500. (Average: $15,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

A spell of unseasonable weather helped business hold a shade above average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 30:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CENTURY (1,600) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,500)
BRINGING UP FATHER (Mono.)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,400)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 5 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,000)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,500)

ST. LOUIS

"The Secret Heart" is in the lead during a week of June weather in January. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29:

HUMORESQUE (WB) — AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,000)
DARK COMMAND (Rep. reissue) and MAN OF CONQUEST (Rep. reissue)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $26,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox) — MISSOURI (3,514) (50c - 60c - 75c) Gross: $22,000. (Average: $12,500)
THE SECRET HEART (M - G - M) — LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-70c) Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,000)

N.Y. Grosses

(Continued from page 10)

$79,000 during the five days ending Sunday evening; it should wind up a second week in the neighborhood of $100,000. "Best Years," at the Astor, still is showing strength aplenty with $50,000 in sight for a 10th week.

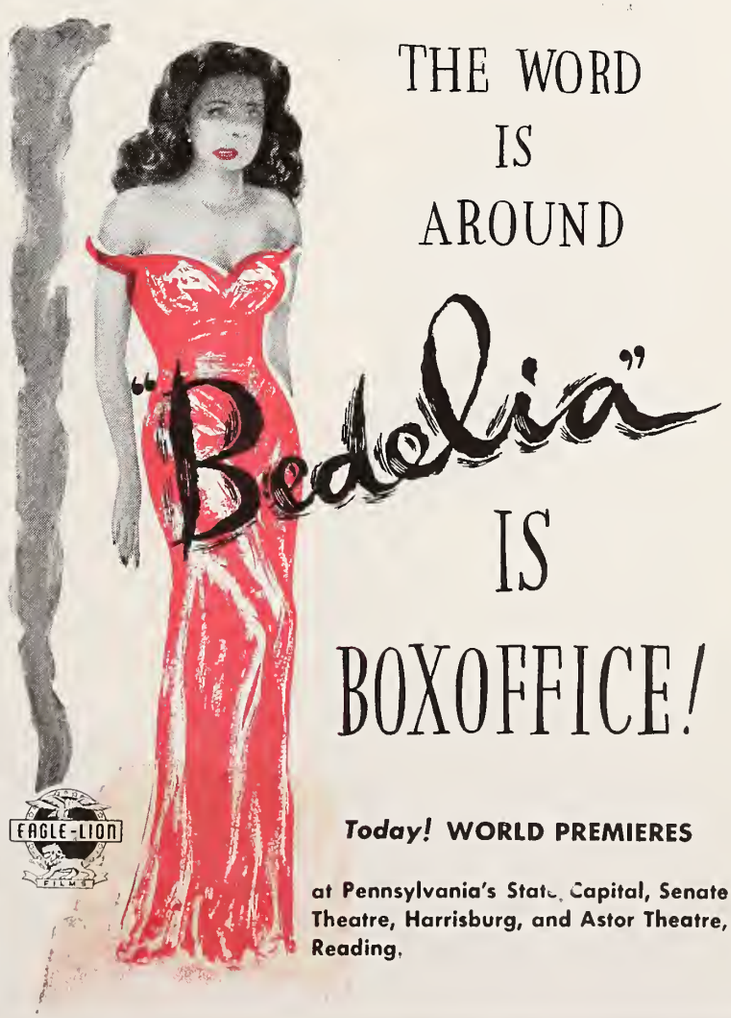
"California" is luring attractive business to the Rivoli where a second week's total of $40,000 is expected. "Stairway to Heaven" at the Park is holding up nicely with an estimated $16,000 apparent for the fifth week. "Humoresque" should do a profitable $24,000 in a fifth week at the Hollywood.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is falling off some but is still good at the Globe, where the sixth week's business should be around $23,000 which is $4,500 under the previous week's take.

"The Perfect Marriage" with the Mills Brothers heading the stage show probably will bring in about $60,000, which is close to average, in a second week at the Paramount; the show go a third week with "Easy Come, Easy Go" scheduled to follow on Feb. 5. "Henry V" is good for $12,000 in its 22nd week of a moveover run at the John Golden Theatre.

Stage Shows Abandoned

CINCINNATI, Jan. 28.—The RKO Albee, playing stage shows and pictures, has temporarily reverted to a straight picture policy, and will resume stage shows as soon as it is possible to secure additional shows of a higher caliber that have been playing the house.



There's Boxoffice Value in **"The RED HOUSE"**

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{see tomorrow's page}

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Kirsch Will Continue as Allied Head

Myers Lauds Justice Dept. In Annual Report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Jack Kirsch of Chicago will continue as president of Allied States for another year, it was learned today as the Allied board prepared to convene at the Statler Hotel here on Friday for its annual meeting.

Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board and general counsel, and William L. Ainsworth, treasurer, are other Allied officers scheduled for re-election. In addition to officers, the board will designate members of the executive committee and the Caravan committee.

In his annual report to the board, Myers will cite high film rentals as the major industry problem which remains unsolved on a national basis. The report will recommend that Allied commend the Department of Jus-

(Continued on page 5)

May Lease Theatres For 'Arch' 1st-Runs

Following a plan inaugurated by Samuel Goldwyn this week, Enterprise Productions may lease theatres throughout the country for pre-release roadshow engagements of "Arch of Triumph," Charles Einfeld, president of the company, said here yesterday.

The leasing method, designed to ob-

(Continued on page 6)

House Passes Excise Levy on Admissions

Washington, Jan. 29.—Advocates of continued war-time excise taxe rates on admissions and other items scored an initial victory in the House today when they overwhelmingly beat down a move to open the legislation to amendments. The voice vote to leave the bill retaining the high war-time levies unchanged presaged its passage later in the day.

The tax measure now goes to the Senate where public hearings on it may be held.

US Is Resorting to Independents to Push Film Program

Faced with a threatened drastic cut, on July 1, in its $2,600,000 motion picture budget, the U. S. State Department is moving to make maximum use of the appropriation for the current fiscal year, ending July 1, especially in the production field, according to Hamilton MacFadden of the Department's New York office.

MacFadden now is in Hollywood completing arrangements for the production of approximately 160 reels of short subjects, some of which will be four reels in length, the others two-reelers. A total of $685,000 has been earmarked for these pictures, to be made on a contract basis. So far, only two are in work, and time for beginning and completing the remainder is slipping away, because, under Government regulations, any appropriated funds not expended by July 1 cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Although the Department had hoped

(Continued on page 6)

FCC Is Shown RCA's Color Television

PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 29.—RCA's all-electronic, simultaneous color television was demonstrated here today to the Federal Communications Commission as the latter continued its investigation of the feasibility of granting to Columbia Broadcasting its petition for ultra-high-frequency standards for commercial color telecasting. RCA is among those strongly opposing the commercialization of color television at present.

The program originated at the RCA laboratories here and was transmitted to Penn's-Neck Community Club, a distance of about half a mile, where FCC studied reception.

British Unions Rebel Against US Combines

Less than twenty-four hours after one of the biggest American-British film deals in history had been signed, the Film Industry Employes Council today violently attacked Hollywood-London motion-picture combines and demanded nearly complete socialization of the industry in Great Britain according to press dispatches reaching here last night.

Warner Brothers and the Associated British Picture Corporation announced on Tuesday that they had agreed to join forces to make six

(Continued on page 6)

Defendants Meet On Appeal Study

Attorneys for distributors met here yesterday at the law office of John Caskey, 20th Century-Fox counsel, to work out preliminaries in their likely appeal of the New York Federal Court's decree decision.

Doubt Precedent if Schine Wins Appeal

The U. S. Supreme Court can reverse the partial-divestiture order in the Schine anti-trust case and then, without any breach of logic, order the complete divorcement of exhibition from distribution in a decision on the Government's appeal of the industry anti-trust suit, in the opinion of Willard McKay, counsel for Schine Chain Theatres, Inc.

Granting a recent Department of Justice contention that the high tribunal cannot logically uphold the Buffalo Federal District Court's decree in the Schine case without following with a divorcement order in the New

(Continued on page 6)

Paramount Product Conferences Start

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Conferences on the company's domestic and foreign production plans got under way today at the Paramount studios with most of the company's top executives in attendance.

Home-office executives participating in the meetings are Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board; Barney Balaban, company president; Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of

(Continued on page 6)

Brooker Says Benton Criticism Correct

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Assistant Secretary of State William Benton's critical remarks about the film industry were "accurate reporting" of the facts, Floyd Brooker, film chief of the U. S. Office of Education, said here today in an address before the Washington Film Council.

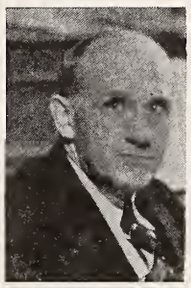
Referring to Benton's statement in Chicago that "Europe looked with fear on the spread of cultural imperialism through motion pictures," Brooker defended the Benton speech, which brought a blast from Joyce

(Continued on page 6)

Set N.Y. Meet For Launching Of M.P. Forum

All Independents Asked To Attend on March 10

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29.—The first meeting of independent exhibitors from all over the country to discuss formation of a motion picture forum to hear and endeavor to resolve internal trade grievances will be held in New York on March 10 - 11, Fred Wehrenberg, president of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, announced today.



Fred Wehrenberg

Invitations have been sent to heads of all national and regional exhibitor organizations, Wehr-

(Continued on page 6)

Myers Asks Allied To 'Table' Forum

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Sounding an almost unrelievedly pessimistic note on the prospects of an improvement in exhibitor-distributor relationships, Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of Allied States, declares in his annual report that Allied's participation in any movement with that as its aim should be de-

(Continued on page 5)

Church Group Sets 7 for Production

The first seven films to be produced by the Protestant Film Commission, interdenominational motion picture agency of U. S. Protestant churches in this country, were announced yes-

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

"Odd Man Out" and "Song of Scheherazade" are reviewed on page 4.

Personal Mention

MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal Eastern director of advertising-publicity, is in Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco, recovering from minor injuries suffered when he was thrown from a horse.

•

BEVERLY KURTZ, secretary to EARL WINGART of 20th Century-Fox's home office publicity department, will be married to IRWIN LASKY on Sunday at the Linden Heights Center, Brooklyn.

•

DON MERSEREAU, general manager of *Film Daily*, is in Doctor's Hospital here with a fractured leg, having been struck by a hit-and-run driver near his Manhattan home Tuesday night.

•

W. C. GEHRING, Central sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, has left New York for Rochester, Minn., where he will enter the Mayo Clinic for a physical check-up.

•

A. M. KANE, Paramount district manager, Boston, and EDWARD RUFF, Albany, N. Y., branch manager, have been visiting Gloversville.

•

LES S. GRUENBERG, FRANK DRUM and GUS SCHAEFER, RKO Radio sales executives, have returned to New York from Albany.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, short subject sales manager for Warners, will return to New York on Tuesday from a Southern tour.

•

STANLEY SHUFORD, Paramount advertising manager, has returned to New York from a West Indies vacation.

•

SID MESIBOV, Paramount's assistant exploitation manager, has returned here from Columbia, Mo.

•

EARL RETTIG, secretary-treasurer of Rainbow Productions, will return to the Coast from New York this week.

•

JOHN S. ALLEN, M-G-M district manager at Washington, will arrive here tomorrow.

•

JOSEPH KAUFMAN, Monogram producer, is visiting New York from the Coast.

Greenfield in Video

Felix Greenfield, who appeared in a radio series as "The Man of Magic," has been signed by General Film Productions, of which Harry A. Kapit is president, to make a series of television shorts titled "Tele Trix." The contract is for one year, with options.

Williams on Film Ads

Advertising accounts of Phil Williams on *Fortune Magazine* have been expanded to take in major film companies here. Williams was formerly advertising - publicity director of March of Time.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

NEVER a party to the Government suit, Sam Goldwyn and any others similarly situated are not bound formally by the consent decree. This being the case, he has organized Samuel Goldwyn Pictures, Inc., for the express purpose of leasing theatres to house roadshow engagements of "The Best Years of Our Lives." It is an interim plan to function on an interim basis between now and next January when the film will go into regular release via RKO Radio. It does not follow necessarily that Goldwyn is entering exhibition on a permanent basis.

In declaring the policy, moreover, Goldwyn's statement pointed out that arrangements have been made with RKO to assist in the acquisition of such theatres and in the physical servicing of the picture.

■

Whether or not Goldwyn is taking a chance via this device to skirt the decree's prohibition of roadshows through stipulating the fixing of minimum admission prices to be in contravention of the Sherman Act now becomes a matter of interesting discussion. That he does not believe he stands on ground in any wise treacherous, of course, is evidenced in his decision to proceed.

Inevitably, this development must tie to the Department of Justice viewpoint set forth by Robert L. Wright recently. Although independent producers and distributors who were not defendants cannot be bound by the decree, he also observed they are not free to engage in practices which the court has found to be in violation of the anti-trust laws; that, if they were to engage in such practices, they would be subject to law suits in which event the decree could be employed as precedent in determining the issue.

There are some, perhaps more squeamish, who speculate over RKO's position if that company, which was a defendant, should help Goldwyn acquire his roadshow houses. Insofar as the servicing of these theatres with prints may be concerned, no question has arisen. It seems agreed that RKO can do it without any trepidations over the outcome.

■ ■

Twentieth Century-Fox advertising proudly proclaims "The Razor's Edge" played to 991,251 people in eight weeks at the Roxy here in New York, offering this as an all-time attendance record for any theatre anywhere in the given period. It is a performance never to be minimized and a proud circumstance for the company to acknowledge as its own.

But the Music Hall has a few statistics of its own, too. Here they are: "Mrs. Miniver," 1,179,656 in eight weeks; "Random Harvest," 1,132,682; "Dragon Seed," 1,094,973; "The Valley of Decision," 1,086,874; "Week-End at the Waldorf," 1,040,863.

■ ■

Everyone understands and appreciates how vital are its foreign markets to the American industry. But figures help paint the picture ever more graphically. Take Universal's for the past eight years. Its percentage of total sales from overseas distribution rose from 38 per cent in the company's 1939 fiscal year to a record 44 per cent in 1945, then dropped slightly to 43 per in the fiscal year which closed Nov. 2, 1946. It went like this:

	% of Total	In Millions
1939	38	$9.0
1940	37	10.1
1941	37	11.3
1942	36	14.1
1943	37	17.4
1944	37	19.2
1945	44	22.3
1946	43	23.1

Or, another way of putting it: In the year ending Nov. 2, the company did a total gross of $53,934,865. Domestic sales accounted for $30,809,450, and foreign, $23,125,415, despite blocked revenues in a number of countries. This reminds of the prediction made some time ago by Eric Johnston that the day was not too distant when fully half of the American industry's revenue might come from the foreign field.

The foreign sales manager of a rival company, incidentally, observed yesterday that Universal's export volume was something to be recognized for its formidability. He likewise ventured the opinion that no other distributor is doing as well, percentage-wise.

■ ■

Theatre business on these shares bounced back mightily in November, by the way. Government tax collections reported for that month were $41,182,757, indicating a picture-house gross of $179,174,561, or an increase of $19,958,913 over October grosses of $159,215,648. This compares with $130,640,505, or an increase of $48,534,056 for the same month last year.

$35,200,000 for U.S. Films in Britain

London, Jan. 29. — British imports of U. S. pictures from July to Dec., 1946, amounted to $35,200,000 out of an import total of $496,000,000 from the U. S., Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, revealed in the House of Commons today.

Youngstein Expands E-L Promotion Staff

Max Youngstein, Eagle-Lion's advertising-publicity director, has increased his field force from 10 to 12. The additions are Richard Owen, formerly with 20th Century-Fox, who will cover the Southwest, out of Dallas, and Vernon Berg, formerly with National Screen, who will operate out of San Francisco covering the Northwest. Berg recently resigned as Warner's exploitation man in the Columbus-Cincinnati-Cleveland area.

Court Sets Feb. 4 For Hughes Hearing

Arguments on the motion by Howard Hughes to dismiss the defense claims of New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding in Hughes' suit to restrain Fielding from banning "The Outlaw," here, were postponed yesterday to Feb. 4 in the New York Supreme Court.

Dr. Clifford to Korda

Alexander Korda has appointed Dr. Hubert Clifford musical director of London Film Productions, Korda spokesmen disclose here. Dr. Clifford, a composer, is professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and during the war was in charge of BBC's empire music services.

QP Team Wins—AGAIN

The basketball five of Quigley Publications was again victorious, last night, in a pitched floor-fight with the sturdy quintet of the Compton Advertising Agency. The score was 27 to 14, in an exciting game played at the Rockefeller Center Gymnasium to the plaudits of many, many fans of both sides.

Hollander to Albany

Elmer Hollander, in charge of playdates at Producers Releasing's home office in New York, has left for Albany as temporary replacement for Joe Miller, New York state district manager, who has been hospitalized with pneumonia. Upon Miller's recovery and return to the Albany exchange, Hollander will return to his own duties at the home office.

Dortic, PRC Terms Fail

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 29.—A last-minute hitch ended negotiations which were to install Charles Dortic as Producers Releasing Corp. manager here. Dortic has returned to his former post as salesman for Columbia.

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ANN SHERIDAN

plays

"NORA PRENTISS"

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ANN SHERIDAN

could play

"NORA PRENTISS"

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KENT SMITH · BRUCE BENNETT WITH ROBERT ALDA · ROSEMARY DECAMP

DIRECTED BY VINCENT SHERMAN · PRODUCED BY WILLIAM JACOBS

SCREEN PLAY BY N. RICHARD NASH • FROM A STORY BY PAUL WEBSTER & JACK SOBELL • MUSIC BY FRANZ WAXMAN

'Barring Indecency, Most Yarns Filmable'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—In the light of the wide variety of top-notch stories to reach the screen during the past few years, the complaint that the industry is timorous and hackneyed in its selection of themes is no longer valid, John Stahl declared in an address before the Citizens League here.

Except in the instances of immorality, bad taste, or sheer banality, there is no type of theme used in books, plays, or stories today that is too profound for screen production, he told his audience.

Stahl, who will next direct "The Walls of Jericho," William Bacher Production for 20th Century-Fox, pointed out that some of the finest and most successful pictures of the past three years have involved such themes as religion and psychiatry which presented delicate problems that no producer wanted to tackle two decades ago.

"As a result of its freedom from story types and cycles, the screen today offers a wider variety and higher standard of entertainment than it ever did before," Stahl asserted.

Barring indecency or bad taste, there is hardly a book published today which is not almost immediately the subject of spirited screen bidding, providing the book is popular and well-written. No longer can critics complain of the industry immaturity as an art form."

Legion of Decency Classifies 14 Films

Seven new films are rated as unobjectionable for general audiences by the National Legion of Decency; five are found unobjectionable for adults and two are termed objectionable in part. The new films and their classifications follow:

Class A-1, "Born to Speed," "I Live as I Please," "I'll Be Yours," "It's Great to Be Young," "The Pilgrim Lady," "Sinbad the Sailor" and "Unexpected Guest." Class A-2, "Alias Mr. Twilight," "Hannerl und ihre Liebhaber" (German), "Hollywood Bound," "Les Miserables," and "The Red House." Class B, "Nora Prentiss" and "Stairway to a Star."

Decries Murder Films With Other Pictures

Columbus, O., Jan. 29.—Practice of dualing "bloodcurdling murder mysteries" and other such doubtful second features with films of special appeal to children, like Walt Disney's "Song of the South," is under fire here. Members of the 27-organization Hilltop Community Council are conducting a critical survey of West Side houses in an attempt to correct the situation.

Managers of Hilltop theaters will be interviewed by organization members to see what, if anything, they can do to prevent such dualing. Charles P. Maus, president of the council, said he had been receiving complaints, chiefly from women members, for the past 18 months.

Reviews

"Odd Man Out"

(*Two Cities Films*)

London, Jan. 29.

TO the dismay of bobby-soxers but to the delight of students of serious film drama, James Mason herein moves at one leap from the hackneyed ranks of popular idols and takes his place among great screen artists. The star admittedly owes much to the directorial art of Carol Reed, but his integrity comes shining through.

It is the tale of an Irish political gunman on the run in Belfast from a charge of murder. Wounded and bleeding, he stumbles through the city, harried by the police and befriended by roustabouts and odd characters infesting that battleground of grim political and religious strife. He dies in the end, along with his girl, in a short, sharp gun battle. Meanwhile, the film unfolds not only the outward appearance of the gunman's sordid life but also the unburdening of a dozen people's souls.

Mason illuminates the gunman so well that the audience is torn by pity. This may well be rated in years to come among the screen's choicest masterpieces. Not the least of its merits is the exactness with which Reed has cast gallery of odd Irish types. His list of players reads like the album of the elite of Dublin's renowned Abbey Theatre. While it is difficult to single out individuals, this reviewer hails Kathleen Ryan, a newcomer, along with F. J. McCormick and Willie Fay.

Running time, 116 minutes. British adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

PETER BURNUP

"Song of Scheherazade"

(*Universal*)

OBVIOUS charm has the music of Rimsky-Korsakoff as it is rendered in "Song of Scheherazade," a unique film with a setting as colorful as a carnival, and a story that might have had a frivolous comic-opera prototype.

The glorifying hues of Technicolor seem somehow to be lacking a little, however, in their usual distinctiveness, although they still add considerable luster to the presentation of the fanciful tale about a group of Russian naval cadets, including Jean Pierre Aumont as the composer, on shore leave in Morocco, back in 1865. The film is picturesquely decorated with gay costumes of the period, and also Yvonne de Carlo. Brian Donlevy's chore is the role of ship's captain completely convinced that his cadets should have stayed in Russia.

The performers and the little story play roles subordinate to Rimsky-Korsakoff's compositions, which range from the frolicsome "Dance of the Tumblers" to the enchanting "Song of India." The film is primarily a song-and-dance festival, with Charles Kullman, celebrated opera star, in several instances bursting forth with the title number and others; Miss de Carlo executes the dances.

The charm of the music and its box-office appeal probably will run parallel only limitedly. "Scheherazade" is decidedly designed to hurdle the commercial limitations of classical music, with its whimsical and wholly flavorsome approach. No monumental tribute to a great composer, the film is bantam-weight, but yet is mirthful and carefully made. Although dull and slow at the start, it increases in pace and interest and the work in its entirety may be termed a happy diversion.

Ten of the composer's works are heard as the film shifts from ship, where Donlevy is forever browbeating his subordinates in amusing fashion, to shore where Miss de Carlo dances at an Oriental night spot to support her flighty mother, Eve Arden. Miss de Carlo has ballet aspirations. Aumont's only ambition is to compose. It winds up in St. Petersburg, Russia, where she dances to his music. Philip Reed, John Qualen, Richard Lane, Terry Kilburn and many others are in the cast. Edward Kaufman is producer; Edward Dodds, associate producer, and Walter Reisch wrote and directed.

Running time, 106 minutes. General audience classification. Release in February.

GENE ARNEEL

French and English To Produce in Hague

The French film company, Bureau Cinematographie Musicale, expects to start producing films in the Netherlands on June 1, according to G. E. Ostwald, a leading Dutch film producer, press dispatches reaching here from The Hague disclose.

Ostwald is described as having explained that the establishment of a foreign film industry would be an important source of foreign exchange, as the films would be sold to other countries. He reputedly said that a studio in Amsterdam had been chosen but that between 200,000 and 300,000 guilders would be needed to re-equip it as the Germans had removed all of the equipment.

French stars and technicians are going to the Netherlands, and both English and French versions will be produced. Britain, too, will produce there, it is said.

Six 'M.C's' to Preside at Cameramen's Fete

A full evening of entertainment is planned by the Press Photographers Association of New York for its 18th annual ball to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Friday night, Feb. 7. Stars of stage, screen and radio will contribute, and Harry Hershfield, Frank Fay, Henny Youngman, Ed Sullivan, Danton Walker and Morey Amsterdam will share honors as masters-of-ceremonies.

'Best Years' in London

Samuel Goldwyn has concluded negotiations with J. Arthur Rank to open "The Best Years of Our Lives" at the Leicester Square Theatre, London, on March 2, the British premiere to be a charity benefit with Mrs. Clement Atlee, wife of the Prime Minister, presiding.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

SALT LAKE CITY

All theatres are above average in a week of moderating weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 30:

THE DARK MIRROR (International)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days on a moveover. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,600)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,500)

THE BOHEMIAN GIRL (Film Classics) and PHANTOM OF THE PLAINS (Rep. reissue)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days with vaudeville. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $3,700)

COME AND GET IT (Film Classics) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $5,900. (Average: $3,600)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 6th week on a moveover. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,700)

UNDERCURRENT (M-G-M)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,800)

SWELL GUY (U)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)

TORONTO

Three main attractions are being held over at Toronto theatres, with one feature continuing for its fourth week with nice business. Typical wintery weather prevails, with the residents taking it in their accustomed stride, while there has been a wide assortment of concerts and orchestra engagements, including Paul Whiteman, to divide attention. Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 29-30:

LADY LUCK (RKO Radio) and CHILD OF DIVORCE (RKO Radio)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,700)

NOBODY LIVES FOREVER (WB)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,800. (Average: $14,300)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $13,300)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,600. (Average: $14,600)

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,400. (Average: $11,400)

LADY LUCK (RKO Radio) and CHILD OF DIVORCE (RKO Radio)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $6,800)

$13,500 for 'Gangs'

Madison Pictures reports a weekly gross of $13,500 for Alan Ladd's "Gangs, Inc.," in a test of that reissue at Loew's Ohio Theatre, Cleveland, against a weekly average of $7,000 for that house. Armand Schenck is president of the company.

'Dimes' Show at Rivoli

Representatives of Latin-American nations participated in a program at the Rivoli Theatre, here, last night in behalf of the March of Dimes Drive. The event was arranged by Monty Salmon, managing director of the Rivoli, and Dr. A. Ramon Ruiz, director of the Good Neighbor Center.

Allied States

(*Continued from page* 1)

tice on its efforts "to eliminate monopoly in the industry" and urge it to continue its attempt to achieve divorcement of affiliated theatres, a subject, his report will say, on which Allied is in agreement with the Justice Department in the final stages of litigation of its anti-trust suit against the industry.

The report will say that theatre divorcement will insure a free market for motion pictures and will open the way for new producers and distributors with new ideas and methods. The report will hit at "artificial" picture shortages, contending that through them exhibitors "will lose the last vestiges of their buying power and will be denied the right of selection which the court sought to confer by the ban on compulsory block booking."

Problems Shifting

Myers will tell the board that the task of interpreting, policing and enforcing the decree will continue for several years. In addition, he will say that industry problems are shifting to regional areas and call for local action in the realm of state and municipal taxation and in connection with exhibitor-public relations.

Concerning the outlook for the industry, Myers will say: "No one doubts that regardless of internal convulsions or economic changes, motion pictures will maintain the strength of their position as the people's basic entertainment. Undoubtedly, many new theatres will be built. Under the American system that sort of progress cannot be halted. Competition will develop where it has never existed before. Expansion in the exhibition field will be restricted to independents and distributors will be allowed to play no favorites."

Approximately 30 Allied directors and observers are scheduled to attend the meeting. The board will discuss Allied's plans to support with playing time the production of 12 features by an independent producer. Discussion of taxation and legislative problems also will be on the agenda.

Brodie Claims Miami Got Jersey Print

A print of "Guilty Parents" intended for distribution in New Jersey was received and shown by accident at the Miami Theatre here, Benjamin Brodie, former owner of the house, testified in Special Sessions Court here yesterday in defense of charges of exhibiting an indecent film. John P. Donnelly, chief inspector of the motion picture division of the State Board of Education, had testified earlier that the picture shown at the Miami contained 401 feet disapproved by the division in 1934.

Following a screening of the film for Judges John V. Flood, Nathan D. Perlman and William Farrel, dismissal of the charges was moved by Jack Leff, Brodie's counsel. This was denied, with Judge Perlman dissenting, and the hearing was adjourned until Feb. 3.

Assistant district attorney John A. McAvinue handled the prosecution, aided by Dan Rosen, representing New York license commissioner Benjamin Fielding, and Sgt. James Quinn of the police commission's legal department.

New Jersey Allied Wants Action on Film Shortage

Edward Lachman, president of New Jersey Allied, at the behest of membership of that organization will go before the National Allied board of directors to recommend "drastic action" to combat what the group feels is the hoarding of product by distributors. The Allied board will meet in Washington Friday.

At a state-wide legislative meeting of Jersey Allied in Trenton on Tuesday, Lachman relayed a report on the companies' present backlog of films as compiled by Pete Wood, business manager of Ohio Allied, as follows: Columbia, 18; M-G-M, 15; Universal, 16; Paramount, 22; RKO Radio, 21; Warners, 13; 20th Century-Fox, 8; United Artists, 18.

Lachman's mission to Washington stems from a resolution adopted last Sept. 18, in which the distributors' selling policies were strongly objected to, with emphasis on the "artificial product shortage," and the number of percentage pictures.

Theatre checking was generally discussed at the meeting. Lachman instructed members to submit complaints to him in writing, adding that he had an assurance from Confidential Reports that those which are justifiable will be corrected. (This was confirmed in New York yesterday by that checking company.)

Admission taxes and adverse legislation were also before the session. Lachman warned that it is the duty of theatremen to become acquainted with local legislators with the aim of making known the position of exhibition when new tax sources are looked for. "Pressure groups are out to get new money," he warned.

State Senator Arthur W. Lewis and Assemblyman Hugh M. Mehortor told the meeting that they will hold to their stand against additional revenue from theatres. Walter Van Riper, Attorney General for New Jersey, and Maj-Gen. Clifford R. Powell also spoke, each praising the community work of exhibitors.

Lachman recommended support of American Brotherhood Week and the subsequent drive for funds for Greek orphans.

Myers Asks Allied

(*Continued from page* 1)

ferred until the U. S. Supreme Court has acted on appeals in the New York, Griffith and Schine anti-trust suits.

Although Myers devotes two pages of his report—to be delivered to the Allied board at a meeting here on Friday—to the subject of exhibitor-distributor cooperation, he does not once mention the motion picture forum which has been proposed as a medium for hearing and discussion of internal industry problems by the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, the formation of which will be discussed at a meeting of independent exhibitors in New York next month. The report leaves no doubt, however, that reference is made to the proposed forum.

"Not knowing," Myers' report will say, "exactly what the outcome of those (Supreme Court) decisions will be, no one could with confidence or safety outline a program involving any joint action or agreements at this stage. The time to initiate such a movement definitely is not ripe, but the subject should be given preliminary study by the (Allied) board at some later meeting."

Reviews Earlier Efforts

Myers' report reviews broadly earlier efforts to effect exhibitor-distributor cooperation which came to naught and indicts distribution companies on numerous counts of recent and current alleged trade abuses.

"Actually," the report concludes, "the permissible scope of any discussions between representatives of the several branches of the industry is very narrow."

Myers' position is regarded as tantamount to Allied's notice that it will not participate in the exhibitor forum meeting called by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, for March 10, in New York, to discuss an approach to better exhibitor-distributor relations.

Ginsberg Rites Friday

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29. — Funeral services for Laurence Ginsberg, 31, nephew of Paramount vice-president Henry Ginsberg, are to be held Friday at the Pierce Brothers Mortuary, Beverly Hills. Interment will be at the Hollywood Cemetery. He died here Monday.

Budget Slash Seen Cutting US Films

Washington, Jan. 29.—Discussing a planned $5,000,000,000 slash of President Truman's budget, Congressman John Taber, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee today predicted that a majority of the Government's public information services will be curtailed or eliminated.

He did not make specific reference to films, but indicated that a single press relations officer may be the sole public information employee in each department, thereby eliminating or cutting film activities in every agency.

'Brotherhood' to Army

The War Department's civil affairs division has purchased the color cartoon, "Brotherhood of Man" for reorientation purposes in enemy-occupied countries, it was announced by Pare Lorentz, pre-war documentary film producer and presently chief of the films and theatre section, re-orientation branch of the War Department's civil affairs division.

NJ Allied Convention

New Jersey Allied's annual convention will be held at the Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, June 24-26. Ed Lachman is president of the unit.

Para. Product Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

distribution; George Weltner, president of Paramount International; Russell Holman, Eastern production head and Alan Jackson, Eastern story editor.

Heading the Coast executives taking part in the conferences is Henry Ginsberg, vice-president in charge of production and studio operations. Attending from the foreign field are J. E. Perkins, chairman and managing director for Great Britain, and Frank Farley, European production representative.

Brooker Says

(*Continued from page* 1)

O'Hara, assistant to Eric Johnston.

Brooker, a member of the U. S. delegation to UNESCO, said that in the field of mass media, the fear is applied only to American films since, this is the field we control throughout the world.

M.P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

enberg said, asking them to appoint representatives to attend the meeting.

The action is in line with a resolution adopted by the MPTOA board at its meeting here last week. The resolution stipulated that the meeting for initial discussion of the forum should be attended exclusively by independent exhibitors and that a subsequent meeting should be held to discuss conciliation plans with distribution executives and representatives of affiliated circuits.

Letters of invitation to the March 10 meeting were sent to Allied States, American Theatres Association, ITO of New York, Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, Confederacy of Southern Associations, Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations, and others.

New Petitioners Hit Daylight Savings

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29.—New petitions for repeal of daylight saving time here, bearing 4,400 signatures, have been presented to the St. Louis election board by Fred Wehrenberg, president of MPTO of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, to replace some 2,500 signatures which had been disqualified by the board on an earlier petition.

May Lease Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

tain necessary advanced-admission revenue for costly films without violating the price-fixing ban laid down in the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, will be used by Goldwyn for showing "The Best Years of Our Lives," as reported on Tuesday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

For "Arch of Triumph," Einfeld said, theatre leasing is being considered along with other methods of obtaining roadshow results without violating the decree provisions. General domestic distribution of the film, along with other Enterprise productions, will be handled by United Artists.

Einfeld, who has been in New York this week finalizing plans for M-G-M's foreign distribution of his company's pictures, is scheduled to return to the Coast tomorrow.

Maryland Considers Theatre Ticket Tax

Baltimore, Jan. 29. — The possibility of taxing amusements again is being discussed in connection with a bill now before the Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee, at Annapolis. The bill provides for the distribution of proceeds from taxes on amusements to the political subdivision in which the amusement is located, after 10 per cent has been deducted by the comptroller to defray the cost of collection.

The recommendation has been made on the theory that Federal taxes on amusements, which were increased to 20 per cent during the war, will be reduced.

US Film Program

(*Continued from page* 1)

to interest major producers in contracting to make a substantial number of the pictures, these companies have declined, MacFadden reports, with the result that he now hopes to close enough deals with independents to round out the program.

Of the two films now being made, one is entitled "American Adventure" and concerns the University of California at Los Angeles, with Jack Chertok as producer. The other, from United Productions of America, is an animated cartoon showing the operation of public-opinion polls in the U. S.

In addition to the production program, the Department is using approximately 80 films acquired from Government agencies, private industry and American civic groups. Some of these, explaining new U. S. devices and production methods, were obtained from Westinghouse, Ford Motor Co., and other manufacturers.

Doubt Schine

(*Continued from page* 1)

ork suit, McKay does not agree that the converse is indicated. The combined size of the major companies is so much greater than Schine's that McKay believes he can succeed in Washington without establishing a precedent against separating theatres from the circuit distributors.

McKay plans a trip to Washington next week to arrange for printing the Schine case record for the Supreme Court appeal. It contains more than 4,700 typewritten pages, in addition to numerous exhibits. How many of the latter shall be printed has not yet been agreed upon by counsel for the Government and the defense.

Thompson to King Bros.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Walter Thompson, film editor and former executive assistant to William Goetz at International Pictures, has been signed by King Brothers as supervising film editor on "The Gangster," first Allied Artists film to be produced by them. He will join the producing organization at the Hal Roach studio on Feb. 1.

To Show 'Duel' to Vets

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29. — David O. Selznick will screen "Duel in the Sun" at 10 veterans hospitals in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, as soon as arrangements can be made by publicist Claud Morris, who will leave here by train tomorrow in that connection, the studio announces.

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Church Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

terday by Paul F. Heard, executive secretary, following the second annual meeting of the commission at Presbyterian headquarters, here. According to Heard, the pictures will comprise the full 1947 production schedule.

The first, he said, will be a film designed to stimulate the average churchgoer to more creative and aggressive Christian living; the second will be a film to promote Christian education by portraying the basic values of religion; and another will dramatize the church school teacher, to aid in the recruitment of them.

Oother films will deal with the need for racial and religious tolerance, vocational opportunities in the missionary field, the ministry, and Christianity in China, Heard disclosed.

In addition to the seven films scheduled, Heard outlined five series of pictures which the commission is planning for future production.

British Unions

(*Continued from page* 1)

British pictures under American directors and to spend $4,000,000 modernizing and re-equipping the Elstree Studios.

The unions proposed: a council of Government, producers and union representatives to foster films under state patronage with a circuit of state-owned theatres and state film production; a reduction in the size of the three present circuits; a films' bank to finance production; and legislation stipulating that four-fifths of labor costs in British films be paid to British subjects.

A memorandum containing the union's proposals was sent to Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade.

Odeon Dividend

LONDON, Jan. 29.—Odeon Theatres announces a seven and one-half per cent interim ordinary dividend, the first since the company was formed in 1937.

Mayer Auction Feb. 27

ARCADIA, Cal., Jan. 29. — Louis B. Mayer, M-G-M production chief, will auction his $5,000,000 racing stable on Feb. 27. The Fasig-Tipton Co. of New York will handle the sale at Santa Anita race track.

New Hollingshead Shorts

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—"Let's Sing a Song of the West" is the first in a new series of six one-reel "Memory Lane" musicals to be produced by Gordon Hollingshead at Warners. Jack Scholl is directing.

Lewis on ASCAP Board

Edgar Leslie, writer-member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has been appointed to the Society's board of directors.

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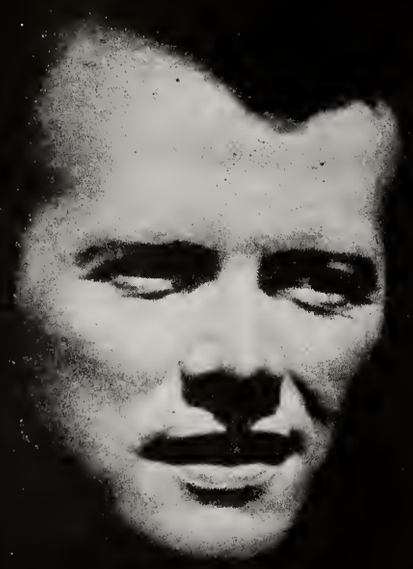
MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Jan. 4	(Dec. Release) RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO Louis Hayward Barbara Britton (Rev. 11/27/46)	(Jan. Releases) 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (Color) Robert Walker Van Heflin M—135 mins. (710) (Rev. 11/13/46)	GINGER Frank Albertson Barbara Reed D—57 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47)					(Jan. Releases) RAZOR'S EDGE (Rev. 11/20/46)		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46)	
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)	GALLANT BESS (Color) Marshall Thompson George Tobias D—99 mins. (702) (Rev. 9/4/46)	RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL Gilbert Roland O—61 mins.	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands	THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas C—67 mins. (Rev. 1/22/47)	(Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)	THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (Color) (Rev. 12/31/46)		I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou M—93 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47)	THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)	THE MIGHTY McGURK Wallace Beery D—85 mins. (711) (Rev. 11/27/46)	RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins.		WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean		(Goldwyn Special) BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES Fredric March Myrna Loy D—172 mins. (Rev. 11/22/46)	13 RUE MADELEINE (Rev. 12/17/46)		THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	LADY IN THE LAKE Robert Montgomery D—103 mins. (712) (Rev. 11/27/46)	VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser M—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	IT'S A JOKE, SON Kenny Delmar Una Merkel C—64 mins. (Rev. 1/21/47)	TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67	(Liberty Special) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE James Stewart Donna Reed D—130 mins. (781) (Rev. 12/19/46)	(Reissue) LES MISERABLES Fredric March Charles Laughton			HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)			BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy	
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John		SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild	(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D	SMASH-UP—THE STORY OF A WOMAN Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean	ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich D	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)			
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	RETURN OF RIN-TIN-TIN (Color) UNTAMED FURY Mikel Conrad	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)				NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins.
Mar. 1			THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		PHILO VANCE RETURNS Alan Curtis D THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont D	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)				
Mar. 8				EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn		THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)				(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum
Mar. 15											

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

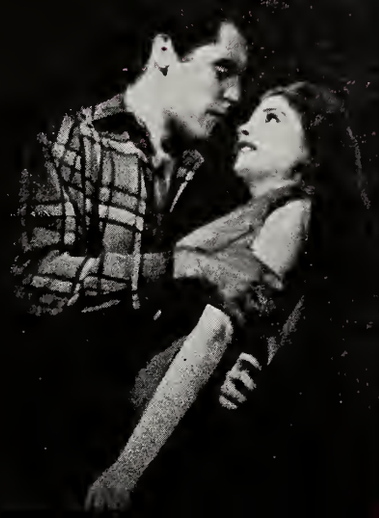
Co-starring in

"The RED HOUSE"



Lon McCallister, the idol of millions after his warmly human performances in "Stage Door Canteen" and "Home in Indiana", will assuredly gain new fame and stature among filmdom's finest!

Not a little of **"The RED HOUSE"** *success is directly responsible to the superb support of Julie London, Allene Roberts and Rory Calhoun whose futures now are marked for stardom!*



{See tomorrow's page}

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 22 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1947 TEN CENTS

Labor Aid for Johnston Plan On UK Quota

NATKE Favors Year's Delay, World Council

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The British Board of Trade should adopt the suggestion made by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, that existing British quota legislation be continued for at least another year, T. J. O'Brien, M.P., general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employes, declared at a meeting of his organization's films studio section here today.

To this statement, which came as a complete surprise, O'Brien added the opinion that Johnston's proposal for a World Film Council is "a great and statesmanlike ideal."

O'Brien said he is "sick and tired

(*Continued on page* 8)

125 Feature Imports in '47

A minimum of 125 and possibly 150 feature imports will reach here this year, in an effort already undertaken by U. S. distributors of foreign films to recapture the market lost during the war years when very few pictures were imported, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today.

From all indications the distribution of these films is going to be highly competitive, with the large volume of product and few exhibition outlets, it was said. Executives directing their

(*Continued on page* 8)

Enterprise Product Out of MPEA Areas

Enterprise Productions, headed by Charles Einfeld and David Loew, will withhold product from the 13 areas in which the Motion Picture Export Association operates under its foreign distribution agreement with Loew's International.

Enterprise's initial five films, which figure in the pact, are to be handled

(*Continued on page* 8)

Allied May Confer With Justice Dep't; Wright to Va. Meet

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney-General, expects to confer here tomorrow or Saturday on the New York Federal court decree with members of the Allied States executive committee who are scheduled to call on him at the Justice Department.

In addition, Wright will make an appearance on Monday at the convention here of the Virginia Motion Picture Theatres Association for an "off-the-record" discussion of the New York Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust suit.

At Allied States' meeting headquarters in the Statler Hotel, here, where the executive committee met infor-

(*Continued on page* 8)

MPTOA Urges Tax Contest in Senate

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 30.—Fred Wehrenberg, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, today called upon exhibitors throughout the country to express their opposition to extension of the Federal wartime 20 per cent admission tax to their Senators in Washington, as the House bill continuing the excise taxes now goes to the Senate.

Wehrenberg pointed out that the MPTOA board of directors, meeting here last week, adopted a resolution

(*Continued on page* 8)

4,650 Film Theatres Operating in France

Washington, Jan. 30.— The U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, here, reports from "reliable French sources" that there are approximately 4,650 commercial motion picture theaters in continental France. About 340 of these are in Paris and 450 in its nearby suburbs. As of Dec., 1946, there were in operation 1,100 permanent 16mm. theaters and 1,700 mobile theaters serving about 10,000 localities in France.

Forum in Talking Stage Only: MPTOA

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 30.—Replying to the pessimistic report of Abram F. Myers, Allied States chairman and general counsel, on the prospect of an effective exhibitor-distributor conciliation plan at this time, Fred Wehrenberg, president of the Motion Picture Owners of America, said today that only "preliminary work" on such a plan is contemplated now.

Wehrenberg, author of the proposal for an industry forum to discuss and endeavor to remedy exhibitor-distributor problems, has invited representatives of national and regional exhibitor organizations to attend a meeting in New York on March 10-11, to consider the proposal.

"The MPTOA board of directors," Wehrenberg said, "felt that a great deal of preliminary work could be ac-

(*Continued on page* 8)

"The Late George Apley"

[*20th Century-Fox*]

JOHN P. MARQUAND, literary prober of Boston and what makes it tick, wrote a Pulitzer Prize novel in "The Late George Apley." George S. Kaufman, playsmith, worked it over for a successful New York stage run. Thereafter, 20th Century-Fox snapped up film rights and now places on display a first-class job of transplanting from one medium to the other.

In all departments, this attraction reflects very substantial skill. Its title performance, in the hands of Ronald Colman, surely is among his best efforts; no doubt, there will be those who will settle for nothing less than insistence it is his finest. But producer Fred Kohlmar and director Joseph L. Mankiewicz have gone considerably further. They have seen to it that the other principal roles—Edna Best as Mrs. Apley, Richard Ney as their son, Peggy Cummins as their daughter, Percy Waramm, Mildred Natwick, Richard Haydn (pleasantly to be remembered as the pharmacist in "Cluny Brown"), Vanessa Brown and Charles Russell—as well as the minor players, reflect dramatic accuracy and that

(*Continued on page* 9)

Plan Move for Arbitration Continuance

Exhibitor Sponsors to Seek Distributor Aid

An exhibitor movement for voluntary continuance of the motion picture arbitration system, in line with a suggestion made by the New York Federal court in its final decree, will be launched in the near future, according to spokesmen for a widespread group of theatre men who favor the plan.

Although the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York is the only exhibitor group so far publicly on record as favoring continuance of the arbitration system, support is understood to have been obtained also from a number of other organizations, with proponents of the plan hoping to muster enough strength soon to make it a reality. When sufficient exhibi-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Advance UN's Film Program

The United Nations Film program gained impetus yesterday when Gerald Mayer, director of the Motion Picture Association's international division, conferred with Jean Benoit-Levy, UN film chief, here, relative to the establishment of an American industry film advisory committee, while at the same time it was announced that Hans Burger has resigned as head of CBS Television's film department to become production supervisor for UN.

With industry advisory groups al-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Returns Heavy for 'Dimes', Says Jensen

Although exhibitors were not requested to file their telegraphic returns on March of Dimes collections until the completion of the drive, telegrams have started pouring into the motion picture division at the Hotel Astor, here. Yesterday, according to Emil C. Jensen, director of the divi-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

FROM THE New Jersey laboratories of the late Thomas Alva Edison came many things mechanical which contributed to the beginning and subsequent progress of the motion picture industry, important among them being his "Kinetoscope." When his personal desk is unsealed on Feb. 8, after standing untouched for 16 years, additional items of interest to the film business could conceivably be found.

The old-fashioned roll-top was sealed at the time of Edison's death, and speculation over its contents have been rife ever since. Several years ago, two New York spiritualists declared they had received a communication from the inventor to the effect that he had left a "momentous message to the world" concealed within a fountain pen inside the desk. Edison was a pencil scribbler, hardly ever used a pen.

▽

Another piece of evidence that the night club gravy train is passing by is the announcement appearing in newspaper ads of Dallas night clubs, some offering to pay the taxi fare for four or more guests, another offering an unheard of bargain: $1.50 a head, free set-up and all the beer one can drink. In the pre-ulcer era one could have bankrupted a place on that kind of a deal.

▽

The great New York Central Railroad System this week became a first cousin to the motion picture business, when Robert R. Young of Pathe, Pathe Laboratories, Eagle-Lion, PRC Pictures, et al, acquired working control of the line.

▽

Lew (The Bard) Lehr poeticizes this piece of merriment: "No matter how grouchy you're feeling, you'll find the smile more or less healing; it grows in a wreath all around the front teeth, thus preserving the face from congealing."

French Unions Plan US Strike Support

Plans for a boycott of American films by French trade unionists to support Hollywood film studio strikers were announced in Paris yesterday by spokesmen for the General Confederation of Labor's Amusement Industry Workers, according to press dispatches reaching here last night.

A union delegation visited United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery. It said also that French film industry workers "dubbing in" French dialogue on American films for showing there might be called out on strike.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's vice-president and general sales manager, will leave here tomorrow for Chicago for a two-day meeting with division managers in Chicago, and from there will continue on to the Coast for his annual studio visit.

•

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, Universal board chairman, is en route to New York by train from the Coast. Vice-president WILLIAM A. SCULLY will leave Hollywood for Chicago on Tuesday.

•

HERMAN GOLDBERG, purchasing agent and maintenance supervisor for Warner exchanges, returned to New York from the Midwest yesterday.

•

DOUGLAS A. HENDERSON, W. J. EADIE and CHRISTY WILBERT will leave Hollywood for New York by train this weekend.

•

JOHN S. ALLEN, M-G-M district manager, is due here from Washington today for home office conferences.

•

R. K. HAWKINSON, RKO Radio assistant foreign manager, is back at the home office, here, from Mexico City.

•

CECIL B. DEMILLE, Paramount producer, is expected here from the Coast on Feb. 15.

•

MILTON LEWIS has returned to the Paramount studio talent department after a visit here.

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal-International director of advertising and publicity, and MAURICE BERGMAN, Eastern director, will leave Hollywood on Tuesday to attend a Chicago meeting, and will then proceed to New York.

•

KENNETH MACKENNA, M-G-M's story editor, will leave Hollywood by train for New York today.

•

DONALD HYDE, vice-president of United States Pictures, will leave Hollywood by train for New York today.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON of M-G-M's home office publicity department is in Washington.

•

JACOB WILK, Eastern story editor for Warners, will leave the Coast tomorrow on his return to New York.

•

RALPH WHEELWRIGHT, assistant to HOWARD STRICKLING at M-G-M's Coast studio, will leave here Tuesday for Washington and will return to the Coast from that city on the following day.

•

JOSEPH PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, will leave here for Washington today.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will leave here Monday for Washington.

•

HARRY RUSKIN, M-G-M writer, is in town from Culver City.

Gabriel Pascal in New Eire Company

DUBLIN, Jan. 27 (By Airmail).—Though no public statement has been made, it is now known definitely that Gabriel Pascal will be in a new production group which is to start in Eire, and for which equipment has already been ordered. Plans for a Studio are well under way.

Pat Farrell, well known Dublin independent exhibitor; Bob O'Flanagan, who has been responsible for several smaller Irish films, and Frank Dermody, Abbey Theatre producer, already training for film work under Pascal's direction, are associated with the project.

Pat Farrell is one of the only two Irish independent exhibitors who control first-run houses in Eire and exhibitors here realize that his ideas on quotas and similar forms of protection are similar to their own. Farrell has always advocated that when an Irish film industry is established it will have to sell its product on its merits to a public which expects good entertainment value.

Koster Joins Cagney

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Henry Koster is leaving M-G-M to direct "The Time of Your Life" for William Cagney. This ends Koster's 17-year association with Joe Pasternak, first in Europe and later with Universal and M-G-M.

Sioux Falls Leader In 'Depinet Drive'

RKO Radio's Sioux Falls exchange, of which S. W. Fitch is manager, continues to hold first place in the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive" at the end of the fifth week. Indianapolis also continues in second place with Detroit nosing out Charlotte for third position. H. H. Greenblatt's Midwestern district is first with the Eastern, Central, Canadian and Prairie following in that order. In the Canadian division the Vancouver branch, W. S. Jones, manager, leads, with Calgary second.

WB Coast Workers Still Buy Bonds

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Completing the fifth year of its U. S. Savings Bonds program, Warner Brothers' Burbank studio employes have participated to the extent of $24,896,455 in purchases by voluntary payroll deductions and outright cash deals. Almost 40 per cent of the studio roster still have regular weekly deductions, with 1,258 members enrolled, according to E. L. DePatie, studio auditor.

Moyer Moves Up

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 30.—Allen M. Moyer has taken over as manager for 20th Century-Fox here, succeeding Joseph G. Mullen, who is ill.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK · JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor · An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
Claudette COLBERT
Walter PIDGEON
June ALLYSON
in M-G-M's
'THE SECRET HEART'
IN PERSON
JOHN BOLES
RUBY HILL
Extra!
LORRAINE ROGNAN

Loretta Young · David Niven
HAL WALLIS production
The Perfect Marriage
A Paramount Picture
in Person
THE MILLS BROS.
OLGA SAN JUAN
TIM HERBERT
Extra!
ELLIOT LAWRENCE
And His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances
ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND · BARBARA STANWYCK · BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

JAMES CAGNEY in
"13 RUE MADELEINE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE — GRACIE FIELDS
Extra! ARTHUR BLAKE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Pierce in New Project

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Jack Pierce, make-up director for Universal-International Studio, has resigned, effective Feb. 15, to launch a new idea in film production make-up which will be available to the industry, following a brief vacation in New York. Pierce has been with Universal for 20 years, having taken over its make-up department in 1926.

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YOU

– AND AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD

The National Conference of Christians and Jews is an organization devoted to good will among men. Or, what the charter of the United Nations defines as, "Universal respect for an observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, language or religion." ¶ American Brotherhood Week will be observed February 16-23, 1947.

Joining together in this fight against prejudice will be:

RADIO
THE PRESS
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
and
THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY!

You are the Motion Picture Industry!

You are the vital part of this drive!

All *you* are asked to do is to obtain a minimum of *10* people to sign a pledge card and mail it in with a contribution of at least $1.00

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, National Chairman; JACK KIRSCH, FRED WEHRENBERG, TED GAMBLE, National Co-Chairmen.

First sign and mail the pledge, printed here for your convenience . . . then turn to the next page for more information on how to implement the drive!

AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD

HARRY S. TRUMAN, *Hon. Chairman* — JOHN G. WINANT, *Chairman*

I pledge allegiance to the ideal of my country—fair play for all.

I pledge myself to keep America free from the disease of hate.

In good heart I pledge unto my fellow-Americans all of the rights and dignities I desire for myself.

And to win support for these principles, I join the American Brotherhood.

NAME.....THEATRE.....

CITY.....STATE.....

To become a member I give $.....(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

YOU ARE AN EXHIBITOR

Into your theatre regularly come the most important figures of your community — merchants, professional people, ordinary citizens. ¶ All you are asked to do is to obtain 10 pledges — BUT YOU CAN GO FURTHER. ¶ Through your many public-spirited activities in the past, your community has come to look to you for leadership. ¶ Your friends, acquaintances and business connections will respond to your leadership in this drive—and will work with you in obtaining additional pledges beyond the minimum of 10 you are asked for!

NOTE:

You will receive these pledges through the mail, together with additional information about the drive. ¶ A special short news featurette, produced by David O. Selznick and featuring stars America knows and loves will be included in all newsreels issued the week of the drive!

NO AUDIENCE COLLECTIONS—

NO EXTENSIVE EFFORTS ON YOUR PART—

JUST OBTAIN A MINIMUM OF 10 PLEDGES—

YOU!

AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD
National Conference of Christians and Jews
381 FOURTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Walsh Sees IATSE In Television Field

SEATTLE, Jan. 30.—The future position of the IATSE in regard to television has come up for discussion at the current executive board meetings of the national labor organization, with Richard Walsh, president, stating that a number of members will eventually move into that field when it develops more fully.

Herbert Aller, business agent for the approximately 900 members of 'IA' Local No. 659, touching on another subject, told the meeting that a move has been launched to organize 16 and 35mm. commercial photographers in Washington and Oregon.

Going into the studio strike, Walsh again declared that every effort will be made to keep members employed.

Patents Granted Color Video Using 1 Tube

An all-electronic color television system using a single electronic picture tube and a "very simple" optical system has been designed by George E. Sleeper, Jr., chief engineer of Color Television, Inc., San Francisco, the company announces. Patents for the system have been granted to Sleeper and assigned to the company.

Sleeper was formerly chief engineer for Farnsworth Television & Radio Corp. and television engineer for Columbia Broadcasting.

Electronics on IRE March 3–6 Agenda

The realm of basic electronic research will be the theme of one of 20 papers for sessions at the 1947 national convention of the Institute of Radio Engineers, to be held in the Hotel Commodore and Grand Central Palace, here, March 3-6. Leading the papers is a survey titled, "The Electronic Research Sponsored by the Office of Naval Research," to be presented by E. R. Piore, of the Office of Naval Research, Washington.

MBS Stations Total 393; 11 Additions

The addition of 11 new Mutual Broadcasting System affiliates, brings the total to 393, announces Carl Haverlin, vice-president in charge of station relations. The additions are: Texas, KCBD, Lubbock, and KRIO, McAllen; WILS, Lansing, Mich.; four in Pennsylvania, WPAM, Pottsville, WJSW, Altoona, WHUN, Huntingdon, WPBZ, Lock Haven.

Also, KMHL, Marshall, Minn.; WBOB, Galaz, Va.; WLOE, Leaksville, N. C., and WCTT, Corbin, Ky.

Air Sponsors Renew

Rugoff and Becker and Leo Brecher Theatres, New York independent circuits, have renewed as participating sponsors of the "Cocktail Time" musical program over WQXR here. The show is heard Monday through Thursday and on Saturday.

In New KMOX Post

J. Soulard Johnson has been appointed executive assistant to the general manager of station KMOX, St. Louis, it is announced here by Columbia Broadcasting.

Philadelphia Tax Rises on Realty

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30.—Tax assessments on mid-town motion picture and legitimate theatres have been raised by the city's board of tax revision. At the same time, it was revealed that the city's estimated returns from amusement taxes fell far short of expectations. The city council had estimated returns at $6,200,000, but 1946 collections came to only $3,284,669.

Among film houses, greatest assessment increase was levied on the Earle. With an assessment of $2,463,100 in 1946, the 1947 figure was boosted $262,900, bringing it to $2,726,000. Assessments on other houses were: Mastbaum, 1946, $1,120,100; 1947, $1,477,000; Stanley, 1946, $528,300, 1947, $646,400; Boyd, 1946, $465,700, 1947, $524,000.

Also: Aldine, 1946, $449,800, 1947, $484,100; Fox, 1946, $1,321,400, 1947, $1,399,000; Erlanger, 1946, $420,800, 1947, $503,600; Stanton, 1946, $292,900, 1947, $344,700; Karlton, 1946, $844,900, 1947, $924,000; Arcadia, 1946, $30,900, 1947, $337,800; Palace, 1946, $584,200, 1947, $606,000; Keith's 1946, $423,600, 1947, $434,600. The Goldman, which opened in August, 1946, was assessed at $788,200.

Mexicans Win Tax Battle After Closing

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 30.—Exhibitors operating the five theatres in Torreon have reopened their houses after keeping them dark for three weeks in protest against taxation considered excessive. The municipal government, ignoring the threat of the closings, imposed a new 10 per cent levy which brought total taxes to 25 per cent. The governor of Coahuila relented, dropping eight per cent of the tax, and the theatres reopened.

D. C. Citizens' Group Opposes Ticket Tax

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The Burroughs Citizens Association today adopted a resolution to be sent to the House and Senate opposing the District Commissioners' recommendation to Congress for the imposition of local admissions, sales and street taxes.

The Washington Motion Picture Theatre Owners announced plans to fight the proposed tax earlier.

Tax Action Is Delayed

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 30.—Municipal leaders have delayed action on plans for increases up to 400 per cent in theatre license fees, following a clash between the common council and board of aldermen. When the matter came up before a joint session council members objected, declaring the matter was scheduled to have a public hearing before the proposed increases, ranging from $400 to $700, are considered.

Nelson Greene, 65

CHICAGO, Jan. 30. — Nelson L. Greene, 65, one of the founders and editors of *Educational Screen Magazine*, died of a heart ailment today. He was a member of the Society for Visual Education. Survivors include a widow, Marie, and a daughter, Mrs. Ermine Huntress.

New York Bill to Regulate Assembly

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Senator William Condon of Yonkers has introduced a bill extending the definition of a place of public assembly for supervision of the State Labor Department to include any structure, enclosure, floor or portion of a structure where 100 or more persons may assemble, including theatres, but making certain exceptions, among them being hotels and fair grounds. It would provide for changes relating to enforcement and investigation and certificates of compliance and would apply to all cities, towns and villages in the state. The measure appropriates $100,000 for enforcement and has been referred to the legislature's labor committee, of which Condon is chairman.

Would Confine Booth Laws to Theatres

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Sen. William Condon of Yonkers has introduced an amendment to the state's general business law exempting "places of public" assembly which are not theatres from regulations governing motion picture projection booths. If the amendment, which was tabled at the last session of the Legislature, passes this year, theatres alone will remain under the regulations.

A spokesman for the Labor Department, sponsors of the Condon amendment, explains that the present law was passed in 1913 and that 16mm. projectors are now considered safe enough to be used in church halls, schools, etc., without the elaborate safeguards provided by the statute.

Extend Race Pickets To Other Theatres

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.—Picketing of the Uptown Theatre by negroes, who have harassed Golden State Theatres' executives for the past several months, resulting in a 40 per cent drop in grosses, was settled in an agreement which stipulated the employment of one colored usherette.

Colored leaders of the movement declare they will continue their crusade for employment of negroes in other San Francisco theatres, with the New Filmore as the next to be followed by the downtown RKO Golden Gate.

Variety Dinner Postponed

TOLEDO, Jan. 30.—The Toledo Variety Club has postponed its inauguration dinner from Feb. 4 to March 11 to coincide with the opening of its club rooms. Jack Lykes, the tent's chief barker, explains that the club wanted the screen stars and industry executives who will attend the dinner to be on hand for the club's opening as well.

$3,500 to Variety Fund

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—The local Variety Club "Heart Fund" received $3,500 from last night's Lauritz Melchior concert at the Palace Theatre, playing to an audience of some 4,000.

New Blumenfeld Hotel

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.—Jack and Nate Blumenfeld of Blumenfeld Theatres, will open their new Tahoe-Biltmore Hotel in Nevada on May 15.

New Loew Internat'l Building in a Year

Loew's International hopes to have its new 16-story home office building ready for occupancy in a year. The foundation has been completed and builders are now awaiting steel.

The structure will extend from 57th to 58th Streets, near Broadway, and will house all departments of the International corporation along with radio station WHN, which Loew's owns, and M-G-M's record company. Space left over will be made available to other tenants.

At present, the company, which purchased the site in July, 1945, is scattered around the Broadway area, with the executive and sales office at the M-G-M home office and with various departments functioning at the Mayfair Theatre Building the Capitol Building and 729 Broadway.

Meanwhile, still lacking confirmation from any official source are the persistent reports of Loew's purchase of the Astor Hotel and adjoining legitimate theatres on West 44th and 45th Streets for the purpose of erecting a huge amusement center, including two film houses. Charles Moskowitz, vice-president of the parent corporation, had no comment to make, offering neither denial nor confirmation.

Broadway observers have it that negotiations for the property are in progress and express the belief that interested parties simply will not talk until the deal is consummated.

Atlantic Coast SMPE Session on Acoustics

The next meeting of the Atlantic Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers will be held on Feb. 19 at the Pennsylvania Hotel with James Y. Dunbar, acoustical engineer of the Johns-Manville Sales, as guest speaker, it is announced by James Frank, Jr., chairman of the section.

Dunbar's paper is titled "Space Acoustics for Recorded and Reproduced Sound." He will discuss some of the basic principles of acoustics and their specific application to theatres and broadcast, recording and television studios.

First Regional for Greek War Orphans

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 30.—Morris Lefko, manager of RKO Radio's local exchange, presided over the first in a series of regional meetings today on behalf of the scheduled industry appeal for the war orphans of Greece. The one-month drive, which starts on March 8, will be in honor of Spyros P. Skouras.

Writers to See Sport Film

New York's baseball writers will be guests at a special preview of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's Pete Smith specialty, "Diamond Demon," on Tuesday morning at the M-G-M home office projection room. The short features Johnny Price, trick baseball player.

Century's House Paper

Edward Schreiber, Century Theatres' advertising-publicity director, announces that the first issue of the circuit's house publication, *Century News*, will appear on Feb. 1. It will be a monthly paper.

20th CENTURY-FOX's

The Razor's Edge

Now breaking all-time industry records for hold-overs . . . after breaking all-time industry records for grosses coast to coast!

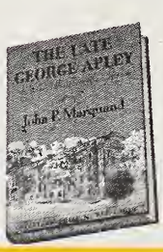
WORLD'S GREATEST HOLDOVER CHAMPION

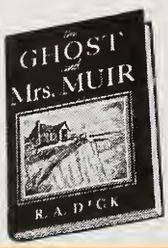
13 RUE MADELEINE

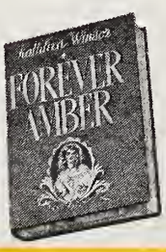
"GREAT, THRILLING ENTERTAINMENT THAT PACKS A TREMENDOUS PUNCH . . . AND WILL PACK THE ROXY!"* Rave the N. Y. Reviewers as it smashes the records of "The House On 92nd Street" sky-high at the Roxy, N. Y.!

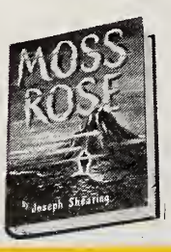
Lee Mortimer, Mirror

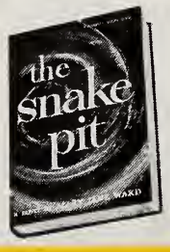
COMING FROM THE BOXOFFICE











FIRST BIG 4 OF 1947!

The Shocking Miss PILGRIM in Technicolor

Shocking?..*She's Sensational!*

MATCHING THE TOP-FIGURES OF 20th's BIGGEST BIG-MONEY MUSICALS! IT'S GRABLE... GERSHWIN...*and* GREAT!

"Exhibitors will have a happy time with it at the boxoffice!"
Showmen's Trade Review

BOOMERANG!

Already the entire industry is ablaze with the excitement presaging a great event!

AN EVENT SO STARTLING IT WILL FOREVER LEAVE ITS IMPRINT UPON THE INDUSTRY!

SHELF OF BEST-SELLERS FROM 20th CENTURY-FOX

MARCH OF DIMES — JANUARY 24th-30th

UN Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

ready set up in England, France, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Argentina and Peru, the American committee is expected to be named soon after Mayer reports to Eric Johnston, MPA president, on the outcome of yesterday's conference.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Film Board has scheduled a meeting for March 18 at Lake Success, when representatives of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Labor Organization, the World Health Organization, the Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Monetary Fund will suggest topics for film productions designed to familiarize audiences with the problems in their respective fields facing peoples around the globe. In addition, two or three pictures will be made to describe the functions of the UN to date.

No Propaganda

Hoping that the UN films will be suitable for showing in regular commercial theatres, Benoit-Levy stresses that propaganda will be kept out of them. "We will state a problem," he said, "but always in an objective way, leaving it up to the people to make up their own minds."

In addition to the UN's own productions, which will be made by established producers on a contract basis and financed, initially, out of the 1947 budget of $450,000 for "motion picture supplies and services," the organization will lend its support to any film adequately setting forth one of the ideas of the Atlantic Charter, Benoit-Levy concluded.

William Farr has been named by Benoit-Levy as his associate director in the film and visual information division of the UN's department of public information. He will have headquarters in Paris.

Enterprise, MPEA

(*Continued from page* 1)

in those countries only in the event MPEA bows out of the scene and Loew's undertakes operations independently. A deadline of July, 1950, is set, and if by that time Loew's takes over on its own in any area it will distribute the five pictures at the rate of one a month. Otherwise the releasing rights will revert back to Enterprise.

At the outset of its organization, MPEA declared it would cease operations presently when restricted territories are opened to competitive trade.

New Negro Film in Work

American News Productions has started a new all-Negro feature, "Hi-De-Ho," starring Cab Calloway, at the Filmcraft Studios in the Bronx. Josh Binney is director, Hall Seeger wrote the screenplay, and with Calloway in the cast are "Dusty" Fletcher, Ida James, Jennie Lee Con, George Wiltshire, the Peters Sisters and the Miller Brothers.

'Henry V' in Omaha

OMAHA, Jan. 30.—"Henry V" will open on Feb. 20 at R. D. Goldberg's Dundee Theatre, at $2.40 top admission. The engagement is the subject of much trade interest in this city where the regular top is 65 cents.

Johnston Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the eternal disparagement of America and the continual clamor of rival interests in the British industry." Noting that seven branches of the industry already have submitted quota recommendations to the BOT, he claimed their views are dictated by sectional interests and are "hopelessly divergent."

As published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 15, 22 and 29, the British Film Producers Association has proposed eliminating the distributors' quota and changing the present method of calculating exhibitors' quota requirements by footage to one wherein films would be counted numerically, while the Film Industry Employes Council seeks a government film-bank for stimulating production, plus a change in the quota laws to stipulate that four-fifths of the labor costs in British pictures be paid to British subjects. F. A. Prior, president of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, and W. R. Fuller, CEA secretary, have been critical of the BFPA proposals, finding them aimed at curtailing American film imports, which they described as "the essence of British exhibitors' livelihoods."

Urges 'Breathing Space'

Their views were echoed somewhat yesterday by O'Brien, who said: "Before we try putting America's house in order, let us put our own in proper shape. Let us have a breathing space to sit down and hammer out, not only among ourselves, but also with our American friends, what is best for the world industry."

Referring to Johnston as "one of the 10 most intelligent persons in America," O'Brien declared: "The motion picture is now an integral part of a wider political field. Johnston looks upon it with a statesman's eyes. No sensible man wants domination. The film workers here believe Britain's films are as good as the world's best. We are all out for British production. We believe we can project to the entire world ideals of peace, prosperity and work for all, but that does not mean domination. Let us have collaboration, not only with the American inudstry but also with those in Russia, France and any other countries making films. Let us pool our efforts, imagination and ingenuity. Otherwise the ideals of peace and maximum entertainment will be impossible to realize," he concluded.

O'Brien is known to be holding private parleys with American executives and proposes pressing his views in the House of Commons. His statement excited widespread comment here.

Selznick to Produce 'Jenny' in New York

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—David O. Selznick will produce "Portrait of Jenny" wholly in New York, starting Feb. 10, using facilities provided by Mayor William O'Dwyer.

17 French Films Here

A program of 17 French-language pictures for American distribution is announced by Siritzky International Pictures Corp., which listed all with English titles, and all will have New York premieres, some at the Ambassador Theatre, operated by Siritzky.

M. P. Forum

(*Continued from page* 1)

complished by exhibitor associations while awaiting U. S. Supreme Court decisions on appeals involving industry litigation. We sincerely hope that Mr. Myers and the Allied States board of directors will look at the proposed industry forum in the same light as we do.

"In our opinion, the need for harmony in the industry is greater now than ever before. I do believe an industry forum will bring that about."

Myers, in his report to the Allied board, to be made at a meeting in Washington tomorrow, contends that "the time is definitely not ripe" to initiate a plan for exhibitor-distributor collaboration. He recommends that the board of Allied consider the subject later, presumably after the Supreme Court has ruled on appeals in the New York, Griffith and Schine anti-trust suits.

Dimes Returns Heavy

(*Continued from page* 1)

sion, brought in the largest number of telegrams to date, and most returns show substantial increases over 1946.

Jensen said that he did not expect to be able to announce names of the winners of the 40-odd prizes, until after Feb. 15 because of the detail in calculating the returns expected from more than 7,000 theatres. Auditors have already begun to compute the results in the two major contests.

Letters received by Jensen and by Charles Reed Jones, national publicity manager of Jensen's division, indicate that the prize contest, the first of its kind for "Dimes" has resulted in numerous promotional stunts by exhibitors.

One of the first exhibitors to report 1947 collections was Fred Good of the La-Nar Theatre, Lanark, Ill.

Officially, theatre collections for the drive ended last night, having started Jan. 24, but many theatres will continue to collect over the weekend.

Tax Contest

(*Continued from page* 1)

urging members to request their Congressmen to remove theatre attendance from the classification of a luxury in their consideration of the new excise tax measure.

"Theatre business is like any other essential enterprise," Wehrenberg said. "It is not a luxury and should not be so classified for tax purposes. We in Missouri already have so advised our Senators."

MGM Sets Five Trade Screenings

Five pictures are slated for tradeshows by M-G-M during February and March. "The Arnelo Affair" will be shown to exhibitors in all areas on Feb. 13, "It Happened in Brooklyn" and "Undercover Maisie" are slated for Feb. 28 showings and "High Barbaree" and "Cynthia's Secret" will be shown on March 11. Release dates have not been set on any of the five.

20th-Fox Tradeshows

William J. Kupper, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, has set "Brasher Doubloon" for tradeshows in the various exchanges Feb. 4, 5 and 7.

Allied Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

mally today it was said that the matter of a conference with Wright had not been decided yet and would be left up to the board of directors which meets tomorrow. The executive committee met, with Jack Kirsch, Allied president, absent due to transportation difficulties occasioned by a blizzard in Chicago, his home city. Kirsch is pected to arrive tomorrow.

Others who will attend the board meeting include: Abram F. Myers, Nathan Yamins, Walter Mitchell, Ray Feeley, Arthur K. Howard, Leslie Bendslev, Ted Rosenblatt, Meyer Stanzler, Leonard Goldberg, M. Pouzzner, J. Rifkin, Maxwell Alderman, Edward Lachman, Irving Dollinger, E. Thornton Kelly, M. A. Rosenberg, Morris Finkel, Martin G. Smith, P. J. Wood, Leo Yassenoff, J. P. Uvick, Leo T. Jones, Trueman Rembusch, Ray Branch, Jack Stewart, F. J. McWilliams, Harry Perlewitz, Benny Berger, Stanley Kane, H. A. Cole, Charles Niles, Tim Evans, W. H. Holt and Floyd Rogers.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

tor participation in the system is guaranteed, the distributors will be approached for cooperation, according to the present blueprint of those sponsoring the idea.

While the arbitration system in operation for the past six years is officially scheduled to go out of existence on March 1, effective date of the final decree handed down in New York Federal District Court last Dec. 31, the life of the current machinery will be prolonged automatically for 30 days with the filing of an appeal of the suit to the Supreme Court.

As of yesterday, no new complaints had been filed with any of the 22 arbitration boards since the decree was handed down. There are 32 old complaints pending with nine of the local tribunals, and two appeals are pending before the appeal board.

There is a possibility that some of the exhibitors who plan to be in New York on March 10-11 in connection with the Motion Picture Forum discussion meeting called by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, may seize upon that opportunity to advance the voluntary arbitration idea.

125 Feature Imports

(*Continued from page* 1)

distribution point out that many of the pre-war "art" theatres were forced to change their policy during the war and devote a major portion of their exhibition time to the showing of American product or reissued foreign product. Some executives feel it will take considerable promotion to get these exhibitors to reconvert to a full-time foreign film policy.

Others, however, are more optimistic. They see an expanding and highly lucrative market as a result of the recent favorable reception to new foreign pictures.

To Tradeshow 'Grass'

Tradeshowings have been set on M-G-M's "The Sea of Grass" in all exchange centers for Feb. 11. No definite release date has been set.

McConnell Files for Buffalo Independent

BUFFALO, Jan. 30.—Thomas C. McConnell, Chicago attorney, today filed a $1,000,000 anti-trust suit here on behalf of the Rivoli Theatre, outlying house, and naming as defendants the distributors and the Shea Circuit.

McConnell is the lawyer for the Jackson Park Theatre, Chicago, which last year won $360,000 damages against distributors and the B. and K. and Warner circuits in Chicago as a result of a Supreme Court decision. McConnell is also the author of the new clearance set-up for Chicago which, to date, has been upheld by Judge Michael L. Igoe, and is currently being appealed by the defendants in the U. S. District Court of Appeals in Chicago.

Details of the anti-trust suit which McConnell filed here, in the District Court for the Western District of New York are exactly the same as those previously outlined. Since that time the New York consent decree decision has been handed down and McConnell says that the decree "helps me very much." He said, "The New York decree outlaws the very thing which we are fighting against in Buffalo."

Explains Ownership

He explained that the Shea circuit is owned one-third by Loew's, one-third by Paramount, and one-third by local Buffalo stockholders.

He added that the New York decree forbids Paramount or Loew's and others from increasing their theatre holdings. In the suit, McConnell, in asking for $1,000,000, bases damages allegedly sustained for the past six years.

The Rivoli is owned by the Rivoli Operating Co. with Stanley Kozanowski, one of the principal owners. The Shea circuit operates four downtown and five outlying houses in Buffalo.

According to McConnell, the Rivoli at one time enjoyed a clearance position 30 days after the conclusion of downtown Buffalo runs. McConnell said that the Shea Circuit bought the Roosevelt Theatre, a competing house to the Rivoli, with substantially the same seating capacity, and thereafter product from the film companies was withheld from the Rivoli until 70 to 90 days after the conclusion of the downtown runs.

According to McConnell, the Roosevelt, after being taken over by the Shea Circuit, first played 14 days ahead of the Rivoli, then 10 days, and finally four days. McConnell said that an arbitration award some six months ago gave the Rivoli day-and-date playing time with the Roosevelt.

Kay Names Managers

ATLANTA, Jan. 30.—John Davis, who has been assisting W. H. Rudisill in the Atlanta Kay Exchange, on sales, has been transferred to New Orleans where he assumes management of the Kay branch in that city. Lynn Dunn, another former Atlanta film man, is managing the Kay office in Memphis.

Correction

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Federal admission tax collections for November were reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Tuesday to have been $42,182,000. This was an error. The correct November collection figure is $41,182,756.

"The Late George Apley"

(Continued from page 1)

degree of competency which make their combined efforts virtually foolproof.

This is a humorous and charming vignette about Boston's ultra, ultra Beacon Street and its insular and provincial old family set, as reflected in the life and habits of George Apley (Colman). The only university in his world is Harvard. New York is practically on the fringe of the wilderness area and Worcester is a foreign city.

He is always courteous and always the gentleman, but he is likewise stiff-shirt and reactionary in his social standards. By his lights, it becomes foreordained that Richard Ney, the son, must marry in strict accordance with heritage and family background and that so, too, must Peggy Cummins, the daughter. But this happens to take place in 1912 when the younger generation, even in Boston evidently, was thinking more and more on its own feet. Ney rebels for a girl in Worcester; Miss Cummins for Russell, a visiting lecturer at Harvard. As it happens, Colman finally has his way with Ney, but repents to the tune of 50 per cent anyway by shedding enough of his repressions and antiquated traditions to bring Miss Cummins and Russell together for their happy finish. The conclusion to be drawn is that Colman actually fails to change his spots, charming and courtly as they may be.

Philip Dunne, in his screenplay, has caught the full flavor of the original material from which he worked. Mankiewicz's direction is faithful to that original, which means he has extracted a great deal of quiet amusement from the clashes between the old-fashioned and the encroaching modern which tear at Colman's generations-old armor. The sum total is an intelligent motion picture, produced in impeccable taste, with an appeal which, in all probability, will point itself more directly at grown-up rather than bobby-sock audiences.

Running time, 98 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

Critics' Quotes . . .

"THE YEARLING" (M-G-M)

A motion picture of beauty, artistry and deep feeling . . . an entertainment of which Hollywood may be proud and for which we may be profoundly grateful.—*Howard Barnes, New York Herald-Tribune.*

A truly great, wonderful picture. It is emotionally eloquent, tenderly human and heart-warmingly real.—*Frank Quinn, New York Daily Mirror.*

A better-than-good dramatic film from the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' prize-winning novel of the same name.—*Kate Cameron, New York Daily News.*

It's a beautiful and heart-warming picture, due to be one of the year's smash hits . . . one of Hollywood's most impressive achievements.—Rose Pelswick, *New York Journal-American.*

Dazzles with its opulence and perfection. . . . Though missing greatness, Sidney Franklin, Clarence Brown and company will doubtless have the consolation of having hit a bullseye of popular taste.—*Archer Winsten, New York Post.*

"The Yearling" is still another chance to get away from it all, but a wonderful chance, a sweet and good and beautiful and kind one—very, very, very. —*Cecelia Ager, PM.*

This is a beautiful picture, a movie that will be remembered and loved for years.—*Eileen Creelman, New York Sun.*

Provides such a wealth of satisfaction that few pictures ever attain . . . a cheerful and inspiring film about the coming to manhood of a youngster.—*Bosley Crowther, New York Times.*

This 1947 may or may not be the year of "The Yearling," as the slogan has suggested, but it is very likely to be the year of the big argument about it. This new picture is full of wonderful elements, each one a dramatic, mirthful or whimsical cameo. But they are detached gems, stirring their audience momentarily but never building to any strong, cumulative dramatic impact. —*Alton Cook, New York World-Telegram.*

Mexican Banks Wary Of Producer Risks

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 30.—Although producers are generally optimistic about 1947 production with a total of from 96 to 134 films looked for—uneasiness about new financing is much in evidence. Private banks are not disposed to lend sufficiently to producers, particularly independents.

Patrons Unaware of Fire

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30.—Fire broke out in the boiler room of the Ace Theatre yesterday afternoon, when firemen battled the blaze for an hour while patrons remained in the house unaware that anything was wrong. They were not informed of the fire because construction of the boiler room is such that the rest of the building was not in danger. Manager Frank Rondini said an oil truck pumped too much oil and the overflow, hitting hot bricks beside the tank, caused the fire.

Check Fire Safeguards

OMAHA, Jan. 30.—The Fire Department here has in work a new program of checking safeguards in theatres. Some theatres have already made changes in equipment as a result.

ABP's Stock Rises

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Associated British Pictures' common stock rose one shilling three-pence (26 cents) following this week's announcement of Warners' plan to produce at the studios.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 30

HARRY THOMAS, president of PRC, has completed an arrangement with George J. Schaefer whereby the latter will supervise production of "Disc Jockey," to be released through PRC. William Stephens will act as producer-director, and negotiations are underway with leading "platter spinners" to portray themselves in the picture.

•

Plans are underway at 20th Century-Fox for the production of a picture based on the true-life story of a Chicago scrubwoman who spent her life's savings to prove the innocence of her son, convicted of murder. To be produced by Otto Lang, the story is tentativelyt titled "Call Northside 777."

•

Gloria Henry, Columbia's new discovery, has been assigned to a starring role for her film debut, the feminine lead in "Major Denning's Trust Estate," which will be produced by Wiliam Bloom and directed by Robert Gordon. . . . Irving Rapper has been assigned to direct "Voice of the Turtle," Warner's screen version of the John Van Druten play.

•

"The Queen's Necklace," based on Alexandre Dumas' version of an historic court scandal, will be Benedict Bogeaus' initial production on his 1947 schedule. Ida Lupino is set for the starring role. . . . Universal-International has acquired film rights to Lillian Hellman's current Broadway play, "Another Part of the Forest."

•

Paramount has announced plans for the production of a picture based on the life of Ludwig, the mad king of Bavaria. Aeneas MacKenzie is at work on the screenplay, which will include some of the best-known music of Wagner. The film will be called "Midnight King," a title based on Ludwig's predilection for the hours of darkness.

•

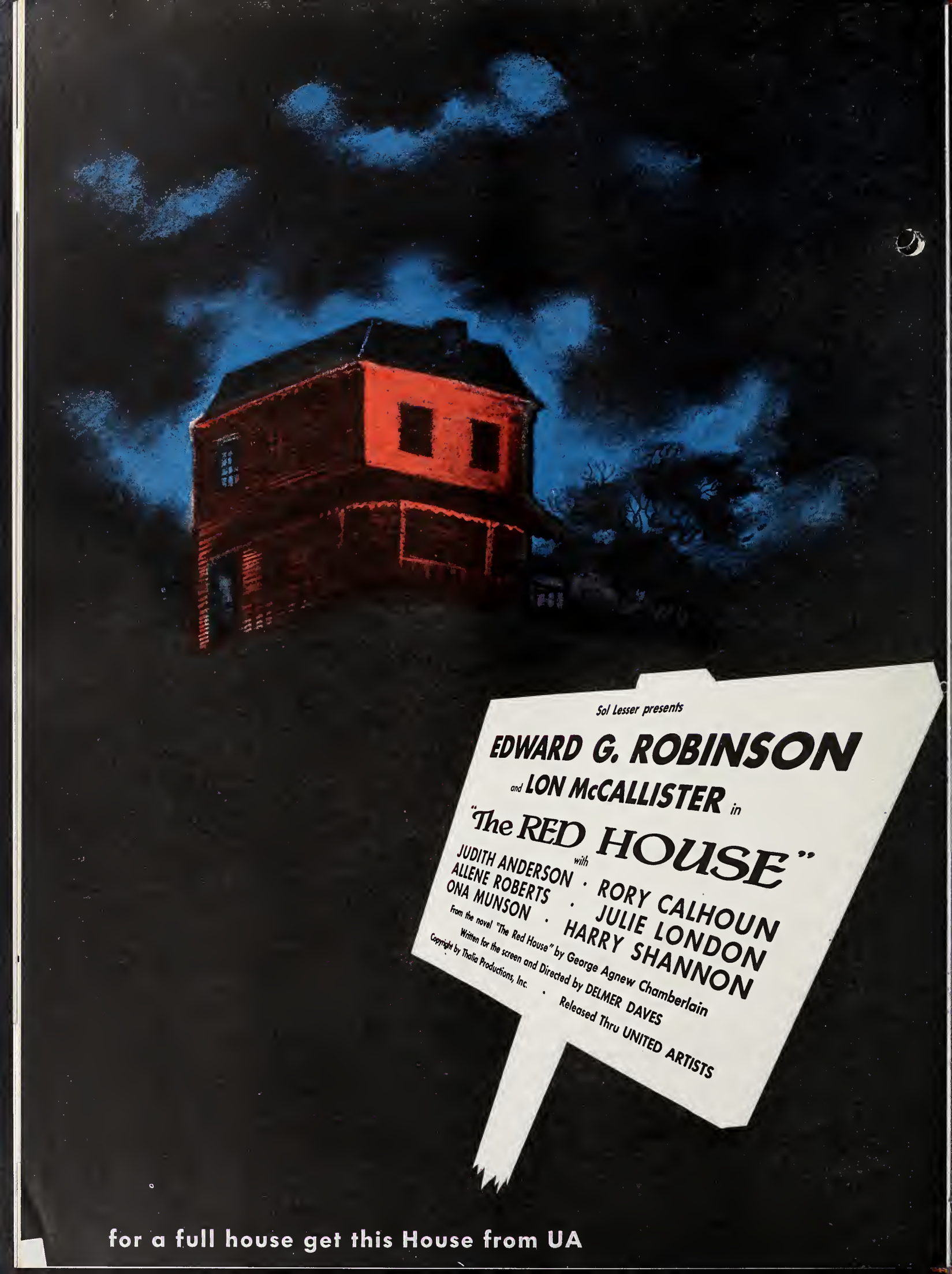
Screen Guild Productions has concluded an arrangement whereby the company will distribute "Bush Pilot," initial full-length film produced by Dominion Productions of Canada. An aviation story, it stars Rochelle Hudson and Jack LaRue. . . . Walter Wanger has borrowed George Marshall from Paramount to direct "Tap Roots," which Wanger will produce in Technicolor, for Universal-International.

•

Jules Levey has added Thomas Hardy's "Return of the Native" to his 1947 production schedule. . . . Charles Starrett, who has been starring in Columbia Westerns for 12 years, has signed a new four-year contract with the studio, under the terms of which he will make eight pictures a year. . . . Ruth Harbert has been promoted to the post of associate producer at Eagle-Lion, and assigned to produce "Convicted," based on her own original.

•

Ginger Rogers has purchased Margaret Rinbeck's novel, "Great Answer," to serve as the basis for her second film at Enterprise.


Sol Lesser presents
EDWARD G. ROBINSON
and LON McCALLISTER in
"The RED HOUSE"
with
JUDITH ANDERSON · RORY CALHOUN
ALLENE ROBERTS · JULIE LONDON
ONA MUNSON · HARRY SHANNON
From the novel "The Red House" by George Agnew Chamberlain
Written for the screen and Directed by DELMER DAVES
Copyright by Thalia Productions, Inc. · Released Thru UNITED ARTISTS
for a full house get this House from UA

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 23 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Increase in Short Rentals Is Stalemated

25 to 33⅓% Rise Is Only Moderately Successful

The reported moderate success attending distributors' efforts to secure higher rentals on their one and two reelers, appears unlikely to grow beyond that point, at least for some time, according to a cross-section check of both exhibitor and distributor opinion.

Said to be seeking from 25 to 33 1/3 per cent above rentals charged before the war, because

(*Continued on page* 10)

20th-Fox Will Meet Feb. 17

Twentieth Century-Fox will hold its first post-war national sales conference at the Hotel Astor in New York on Feb. 17-19, it was announced over the weekend by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution. Discussions will cover new sales procedures and other problems affecting the distribution of the company's

(*Continued on page* 7)

Columbia Notice of Appeal Is Deferred

Columbia's decree decision appeal notice to the U. S. Supreme Court, originally slated to be made last week, has been put off by Louis Frohlich, Columbia counsel, due to the pressure of other cases which required his immediate attention, Frohlich states. He said he now hopes to file this week, adding that the motions for certain changes in the decree pending in the New York Federal Court have no bearing on the action.

He explained that Columbia had asked for stays on the bidding and single sales provisions, and an appeal on these two counts will be taken regardless of the decision on the stays.

E. K. Storage Space To Be Doubled; Rise In Production Seen

In anticipation of "greatly increased" raw stock orders to meet the needs of anticipated increased production, storage space for Eastman Kodak film in Hollywood will be approximately doubled through the building or acquisition of new facilities within the next two or three years, according to William J. German, president of Jules Brulatour, Inc., exclusive distributors of Eastman motion picture film.

William J. German

German returned last week from

(*Continued on page* 10)

MGM Sales Heads in Chicago Meet Today

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—An assortment of sales matters will be taken up at the M-G-M division managers meeting today and tomorrow at the Drake Hotel, Chicago. William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales man-

(*Continued on page* 10)

'Dimes' Deadline Is Set Back Five Days

Final date for filing telegraphic reports of collections in the March of Dimes contest has been extended from Feb. 5 to Feb. 10, Emil C. Jenson, director of the motion picture division, reports. The date has been extended to permit the participation in the contest of some exhibitors who were obliged, because of local circumstances, to begin their week of collections after the specified starting date of Jan. 24.

Mexican Grosses Are Still Running High

Theatre attendance in Mexico has displayed no sign of tapering-off from their wartime highs, Luis Mantes, president of the Mexican Motion Picture Chamber of Commerce, said here Friday at a farewell luncheon given by Fox West Coast. Mantes then left for Mexico City following a week here on the invitation of Charles Skouras.

American pictures, which grossed less than Mexican product in Mexico during the war, due to their accentuation of war themes, have climbed back into favor since then, Mantes said, and now gross on a par with domestic films. Admission prices, which compare directly to American scales, have remained unchanged since the end of the war.

'It Happened on 5th Avenue'

[*Monogram-Allied Artists*]

Hollywood, Feb. 2

ROY DEL RUTH, whose long and successful career speaks for itself, produced and directed this initial Allied Artists production —a warmly human picture with wide appeal. It clearly commands preferred playing time.

Del Ruth selected a story of the same generic type as "You Can't Take It With You," and "It's a Wonderful Life," and gave it lavish production values, and talents of cast including such capable players as Don Defore, Ann Harding, Charles Ruggles, Victor Moore and Gale Storm. The result is more than satisfactory entertainment, as evidenced by the reaction of the preview audience at Warners Beverly Hills Theatre.

Everett Freeman's screenplay, based on original by Herbert Clyde Lewis and Frederick Stephani, opens in the New York mansion of a magnate who prefers to winter in the South. A tramp, familiar with the owner's habits, moves into the boarded-up mansion soon after the magnate departs. He settles down for a pleasant stay, wearing the millionaire's clothes, eating his food and drinking his wine, undetected behind the shuttered windows.

His solitude is shattered when he befriends a young war veteran who has been evicted from an apartment house owned by the same absentee landlord.

(*Continued on page* 7)

Allied Board Votes High Court Appeal

Myers' Amicus Curiae Recommendation Taken

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The mid-winter meeting of Allied States' board on Friday voted to have the organization appear before the U. S. Supreme Court as *amicus curiae* when the industry anti-trust suit reaches that jurisdiction from the lower court.

Abram F. Myers

Acting on a recommendation made by Abram F. Myers, Allied counsel, the board of directors agreed to let the executive committee serve as advisors to the counsel, with discretionary power to confer

(*Continued on page* 10)

Film Accuracy Needed: Price

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—Private enterprise in the fields of motion pictures and newspapers is in jeopardy and will remain so to the extent that American distributors and news services "may fail to present a representative sample of American life," Byron Price, Hollywood vice-president of the Motion Picture Association, declared in an address before the Harvard Clubs of Southern California here, at the weekend.

Noting that the alleged distortion of American life is used as an argu-

(*Continued on page* 10)

In This Issue

In addition to the review of "It Happened on Fifth Avenue" which begins on this page, this issue contains reviews of "The Red House" and "Easy Come, Easy Go"— on page 7.

Personal Mention

JACK L. WARNER, vice-president and executive producer of Warners, is aboard the *Queen Elizabeth*, which is scheduled to dock in New York today.

•

MORRIS GOODMAN, former Republic foreign manager and until recently Motion Picture Export Association representative in Berlin, is now in Paris where he will remain until Feb. 7 before returning to the U. S.

•

ARNOLD STOLTZ, PRC special sales representative, is expected to return to his office here in about a week following an emergency appendectomy at West Side Hospital last Thursday.

•

RICHARD MORGAN of the Paramount home office legal department left New York for the Coast yesterday, accompanied by GEORGE A. SMITH, Western division sales manager.

•

LOYAL HAIGHT, assistant manager of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., left New York for Detroit at the weekend, accompanied by EUGENE STREET.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, 20th Century-Fox vice-president and the studio's Eastern representative, left New York for the Coast at the weekend.

•

DONALD HYDE, vice-president of United States Pictures, is due to arrive today from the Coast. He will remain in New York two weeks.

•

DONALD MACK, Filmack executive, and MRS. MACK, are parents of their first child, GARY ALLEN, who made IRVING MACK a grandpappy.

•

CHARLES EINFELD, president of Enterprise Productions, left New York for Hollywood on Friday. He will return in about four weeks.

•

CHARLES J. FELDMAN, Universal Western division sales manager, left here Friday on a trip to the Midwest and the Coast.

•

EARLE SWEIGERT, Paramount Mid-Eastern division sales manager, is in Washington from New York.

•

CLAUDE F. LEE, Paramount public relations director, is due in New York tomorrow from Washington.

•

BONITA GRANVILLE and JACK WRATHER, producer, will be married shortly.

•

SAM BOVERMAN of the Paramount home office legal staff is in New Orleans.

•

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Paramount vice-president, is in Florida from New York.

•

DAVID ROSE will sail from New York for England on Wednesday.

•

DANE CLARK will arrive in New York this week from the Coast.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

ABRAM MYERS, chairman and general counsel of Allied States, gave a pessimistic report to his board of directors at a meeting in Washington last Friday on the chances for success of such an organization as the motion picture forum, proposed by the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America as a medium for discussing exhibition and distribution problems with the hope of solving at least some of them.

Mr. Myers asserted in his report that the distributors are in no mood at this time to make concessions to exhibition. It was his conviction, apparently, that no relief may be expected from an agency of industry conciliation until the Supreme Court has finally resolved current industry litigation. He asked that the Allied board consider the subject at a later meeting.

His report enumerated several distribution practices as evidence of vindictiveness toward exhibitors which, presumably, were to prove his contention that "the time is not ripe" for a *rapprochement* between exhibition and distribution.

•

Unless the whole idea of the proposed motion picture forum has been laid before the industry ineptly, there is not a single grievance charged against distributors in Mr. Myers' report to his board of directors that could not properly be made the subject of discussion within an industry forum and a serious effort made to obtain relief in the event a fair appraisal of the grievance indicated that relief was warranted.

There is a good deal of support for Mr. Myers' view that the usefulness of a conciliation agency will be markedly limited until current industry litigation has been decided by the Supreme Court. The MPTOA, sponsor of the proposed forum, shares that view with Mr. Myers. Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, explained that the meeting of independent exhibitor organizations which has been called for March 10 and 11 in New York will be concerned only with the preliminaries of organization. There is, apparently, no plan or wish to have the forum begin to function at that time. Meetings subsequent to that one will need to be held with distribution representatives, and months may elapse thereafter before an agreement could be reached on the makeup of the forum and the area of its interests. The wisdom of an immediate start is clearly indicated.

It would seem shortsighted, in view of such considerations, for Allied to decline the invitation to attend the March meeting in New York to help lay the groundwork for the study and possible solution of the problems besetting exhibition, some of them named by Mr. Myers in his report. One of the consequences of such a course, in fact, would be to place in the hands of Allied's critics some not inconsequential evidence to support the often-heard charge that Allied does not wish to see industry problems solved.

• •

The many analyses in recent weeks of the phenomenon of stable grosses and declining theatre attendance, prevailing in the industry now, have not placed proper emphasis upon the part played by increased admission scales in bringing about that result, according to some observers of the trend.

The analysts have pointed out the obvious—that the gross level is maintained despite a decline in attendance because admission prices are higher than they were a year ago. The usual conclusion is that customers are "shopping" for their entertainment or that the drawing power of the general run of pictures has declined.

Some trade observers point out that the shoppers for entertainment are customers, not non-theatre goers. They may shop by rejecting one or more pictures in favor of what they regard as their best choice available, but most of them end up in some theatre, regardless. Therefore, these observers see little effect exerted by shoppers on over-all theatre attendance, certainly less on that than on the gross of individual pictures. They believe, rather, that the higher admission scales are actually keeping people from theatres, particularly young people and their "dates," whose motion picture money comes from small weekly allowances or spare-time earnings. They conclude from this that attendance, as well as gross, would equal or exceed last year's if admission scales had remained the same.

Perhaps they are right. Certainly, when the cost of entertainment ranges from 50 cents to $2.40 per person, it is beginning to shed its claim to being "mass entertainment."

Newsreel Parade

POLAND'S election, the war in Indo-China, aviation tragedies and Franklin D. Roosevelt's birthday get the spotlight in current newsreels, which also contain miscellaneous sports and human interest items; full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 45—U. S. mediation attempts in China. Polish election brings U. S. protest. Aviation tragedies: Dutch Airlines, Copenhagen; passenger transport, London. Maj. Howie of St. Lo battle is honored. Pilgrimage to the Ganges. King of Laos. Teachers cured of double vision. Sports: sled racing, rodeo.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 243—World spotlight on Poland's first postwar election. French return Laos territory as peace move in Indo-China. Air tragedies: Copenhagen, Croydon. Princess sets precedent. Most beautiful legs. Sled racing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 46—From Denmark: goodwill gymnasts. Polish vote challenged. The nation remembers Franklin D. Roosevelt. France returns province in Indo-China. Controversy grows over air safety.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 48—In memoriam of F.D.R. DeGaspari, Italian premier, returns. Poland's disputed election. German youths learn Democracy. Radar used to reduce plane toll; Jet-planes vault Alps.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 9—First pictures of Polish election. Grace Moore and Crown Prince of Sweden die in air crash. Severest winter in years brings added suffering to Europe's hungry and homeless. Oriental kingdom returned to Indo-China. Breath-taking ski thrills at Dubuque, Ia. Auto races on beach at Daytona.

Clear Up Claims in Fox Theatres Case

Skouras Theatres Corp. and United Artists Theatres have settled, finally, all claims against them rising out of the bankruptcy in 1944 of Fox Theatres and the reorganization of its subsidiary, Metropolitan Playhouses, with payment of $250,000 to trustees of Fox Theatres and its creditors.

Offer of the settlement was made by UA Theatres and Skouras, Robert Aronstein, attorney for the trustees and certain creditors then filed application for approval with the New York District Court and on Friday Federal Judge John C. Knox, after a hearing, granted the application.

In 1935 Skouras and UA Theatres acquired all class A stock of the reorganized Metropolitan circuit for $150,000, in a deal approved by the court. Many legal skirmishes followed and subsequently the UA and Skouras companies brought that figure up an additional $850,000.

All Film Companies Now Signed by SPG

All 12 distributors here are now signed with the Screen Publicists Guild under its new terms. Producers Releasing, which had recognized the SPG as bargaining agent last July, finally closed a contract on Friday while Republic also renewed its pact.

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Parents Hail MPA 'Library' As Educational Factor

Johnston's Motivation Is Supported by Analysis

By CHARLES L. FRANKE

Two new developments have evolved to lend added impetus to, and insure the continued success of the Motion Picture Association's "Children's Film Library," according to an analysis of public reaction established by the MPA.

Today's children, it is said, are bypassing the "sainted" literary classics in their reading, and today's parents, appalled over this fact, are looking to the "Children's Film Library" as a compensatory agent and, additionally, are welcoming the opportunity for their children to share with them past "film experiences" that would not otherwise be available. In other words, according to reactions, the public is looking to the MPA program to help guarantee a "well-read" younger generation. This was the underlying consideration which prompted MPA president Eric Johnston to launch the program.

Factors Are New

It was the non-existence of both of these factors, according to MPA opinion, that doomed to failure a similar children's program developed by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America in 1924-25. In those days children were more inclined to read such books as "David Copperfield," "Little Men," "Little Women," "Alice in Wonderland," "Young Tom Edison," and the others, it is pointed out, and likewise in those days when the industry was in its infancy parents had had no past "film experiences" to share under such a program.

Today MPA files are crowded with records of press, radio and civic support of, and enthusiasm for the "Children's Library." This has impelled the MPA to make plans for extending the library beyond the 27 features originally slated. Additional pictures, like some of those already included in the program, will be previewed by groups of school children to determine their fitness. Currently the Association is collating a wealth of data on the program, and this together with a summation of accomplishments will be made available to exhibitors shortly.

Loew's Ad Talks to Open Here Thursday

Loew's out-of-town division managers and divisional publicists are coming here for advertising conferences on Thursday with M-G-M's Howard Dietz and Loew's Ernest Emerling. Divisional publicists include Joe Di Pesa, Boston; Ed Fisher, Cleveland; Ted Barker, St. Louis; Brock Whitlock, Washington; Lou Brown of the Poli Circuit and Gertrude Bunchez of Baltimore.

Sorrell Hearing Delayed

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2. — Hearing on defense counsel's motion to dismiss indictments against Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, and 13 other strike leaders charged with conspiracy to violate court orders, has been postponed by Superior Court Judge Thomas Ambrose to Feb. 24.

Six Top Stars for 'Brotherhood' Film

June Allyson, Lionel Barrymore, Joan Bennett, Gene Kelly, Gregory Peck and Dick Powell comprise the cast of the special David O. Selznick news featurette which will announce American Brotherhood Week to theatre-goers during the week of Feb. 16-23. Produced by Selznick, and directed by William Dieterle, the subject will become a part of every newsreel starting with the opening of the drive.

Skouras Is Chairman

The motion picture industry Drive is under the chairmanship of Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, with Fred Wehrenberg, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America; Jack Kirsch, national president of Allied States Association, and Ted Gamble of the American Theatres Association, as co-chairmen.

Exhibitors are being asked to obtain a minimum quota of 10 pledges per theatre, with this number expected to be exceeded when the campaign gets under way.

The overall objective is a total of 250,000 memberships. No audience collections will be made.

Reciprocity Group To Hear Johnston

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, held a conference Friday with his local aides on the statement he plans to make before the Inter-Departmental Committee on reciprocity on Feb. 6.

Johnston will urge the continuation of the State Department's reciprocal trade program and will list industry trade barriers being imposed abroad.

Allied and Monogram Have 11 in Backlog

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Allied Artists and Monogram now have the most costly backlog of completed pictures in their history, it is announced by Steve Broidy, president.

Headed by the Allied Artists release, Roy Del Ruth's "It Happened on 5th Avenue," filmed at a cost of $1,300,000, the list of 11 Monogram pictures includes several of the company's most important films of the year, the latter group leading off with "Black Gold," Cinecolor production, and including "The Guilty," "High Conquest," "Fall Guy," "Violence," "Panic," "Rainbow over the Rockies," "Valley of Fear," "Six Gun Serenade," "Trailing Danger" and "Land of the Lawless."

Thorner to Liberty

Everett Thorner will join Liberty Films today as exploitation field man, working out of Mort Nathanson's New York publicity office. Thorner previously held a similar post for Warner Brothers in Denver and Salt Lake and prior to that was associated with advertising and radio agencies. His first assignment will be on Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life," released by RKO Radio.

Bader Now Business Head of Film Bulletin

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—David A. Bader, veteran industry publicist, has been named business manager of *Film Bulletin*, Moe Wax, publisher, announced here at the weekend. Assuming his new duties tomorrow with the Philadelphia regional trade paper, Bader will make his headquarters in New York.

Bader, who entered the industry with Universal in 1920 and was later personal representative of Carl Laemmle, its president, was head of the Literary Corp. of America in 1938 and served as trade press representative for 20th Century-Fox during the past few years. In 1942, he was executive editor of *The Independent*, New York. He has been associated with the current March of Dimes drive as a publicist.

In going with the *Bulletin*, Bader is disassociating himself from the *16mm. Reporter*, which he acquired some time ago, Wax said.

St. Louis Will Vote On Daylight Saving

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2.—Exhibitors here have finally triumphed in efforts to get the issue of daylight saving time before St. Louis voters. It has become apparent that the issue will be included on a ballot in the April municipal election.

Exhibitors had circulated petitions seeking repeal of daylight saving time and when petitions first submitted were found to have 7,000 allegedly invalid signatures, leaving a shortage of more than 2,000, the exhibitors took back the petitions and got more signatures and now have 400 more names than are needed. Meanwhile, too, the city counselors' office has ruled that the issue could not be certified in time to place it on the ballot, but exhibitors found loopholes in city ordinances and now it seems likely the board of aldermen will certify the issue.

First Enterprise - UA Release Opens Feb. 22

Enterprise's first release through United Artists, Harry Sherman's "Ramrod," will have its premiere in 25 Utah theatres on Feb. 22, in connection with the state's centennial. Robert Taplinger, advertising-publicity director for Enterprise, made the announcement at a UA press luncheon here on Friday. Taplinger is returning to the Coast next Friday.

Also present at the luncheon were: Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., Howard Le Sieur, Francis Winikus, Lew Barasch and Mori Krushem, all of United Artists, and Red Kann, James Cunningham, James Ivers, Jack Harrison, Herb Golden, Paul Perez, Frank Lyndecker, Floyd Stone, Mel Koneoff, Mort Sunshine, Al Picault, Chester Bahn, Walter Blake, Lew Melamed.

'Bedelia' Here Feb. 7

"Bedelia," first Eagle-Lion film to have a New York City opening, will have its local premiere at the Victoria Theatre on Broadway on Friday, Feb. 7, A. W. Schwalberg, E-L vice-president and general sales manager, announces.

Paramount Chiefs Honored on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—The Paramount home office and British executives who conferred here during the week on the company's domestic and foreign production plans were honored at a reception at the weekend at which they were greeted by 200 persons among whom were studio officials, stars, department heads, producers, directors and writers. Henry Ginsberg, vice-president in charge of production and studio operations was host.

Guests of Honor

Guests of honor were: Barney Balaban, Paramount president; Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board; Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution; George Weltner, president of Paramount International; Russell Holman, Eastern production head; Alan Jackson, Eastern story editor; Curtis Mitchell, director of publicity-advertising, and the following from overseas: James E. Perkins, chairman and managing director for Great Britain, and Frank Farley, European production representative for the company.

Among players at the reception were: Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Ray Milland, Dorothy Lamour, Betty Hutton, Alan Ladd, Joan Caulfield, Veronica Lake, Phyllis Calvert, Ann Todd, Howard da Silva, Macdonald Carey, Billy De Wolfe, William Bendix, William Demarest, Cecil Kellaway, Patrie Knowles, Virginia Field, John Lund, Robert Preston and Catherine Craig.

Paramount Executives Are Honored by Studio Heads

Barney Balaban, Paramount president, and Charles M. Reagan, distribution vice-president, are due in New York from Hollywood today. George Weltner, president of Paramount International, will return today or tomorrow. Alan Jackson, Eastern story editor, is expected next Monday. Russell Holman, Eastern production head, is due sometime next week. Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board, will remain on the Coast for several months.

Griffith Suit Taken To High Court

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—H. L. Griffith of the Griffith Circuit said here at the weekend that his organization has already been served with an official Justice Department notice that the Oklahoma anti-trust suit will be appealed to the Supreme Court by the Government. Griffith expressed the belief that the lower court decision would be upheld in the Supreme Court.

The Western exhibitor was in Washington to attend the annual Texas Society dinner. Other Texas exhibitors present were: E. H. Rowley, president of the Rowley Circuit; L. M. Rice, attorney for Rowley; and Jim Clements of Dallas.

Inter-City Dissolves

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Inter-City Circuit, Inc., New York, has been dissolved. Moe Morris, Radio City, was recording attorney.

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with

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Directed by ROBERT ROSSEN

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Hits Bill Dropping School Show Taxes

ELDORA, Iowa, Feb. 2.—A bill to eliminate the Federal admisson tax on all school shows has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Henry O. Talle, it is disclosed by Leo F. Wolcott, board chairman of Allied of Iowa-Nebraska, in a bulletin to the membership urging protests against the proposal.

Wolcott calls the bill discriminatory. He states: "In view of the fact that schools have so completely commercialized their activities, games, film shows and the like, there is no valid reason why the public which patronizes these activities should not be required to pay this tax the same as those who attend theatres."

Omaha Companies In Fight Over Site

OMAHA, Feb. 2.—Four film firms here have protested the tentative selection of land which they occupy, as part of a site for a $3,500,000 city auditorium.

An ordinance which provides for condemnation of the land and which would cut off westward development of Film Row now rests in the city council. The four who asked the council that they be heard include: Robert Ballantyne, owner of The Ballantyne Co.; J. M. McBride, Paramount; William Raapke, Metropolitan Scenic Studios; Frank Hannon, Warners.

Webster Is Named Warner Manager

Paul Webster, formerly of the Warner Brothers sales staff in Salt Lake City, has been promoted to branch manager in Des Moines by Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager. Webster, who succeeds George Lefko, resigned, led the field in the salesman division of the 1946 Warner sales drive.

Roy Haines, Western division sales manager for Warners, has arranged for the installation of the new Des Moines manager.

Installs McClellan

HARTFORD, Feb. 2.—Byron McClellan has been installed as president of local No. 439, IATSE, New London. Other installed officers: W. W. Lucas, vice-president; William F. Totten, recording secretary; William A. Reed, financial secretary-treasurer; Fred C. Nowell, business agent, and John S. Kane, Salvatore Patti and Irwin Dawley, board of trustees.

I. Schlesinger, 80

I. Schlesinger, 80, father of Leonard S. Schlesinger, president and general manager of Warner Brothers Service Corp., died on Friday at his home in St. Louis and was buried in that city yesterday. The Warner executive will return to New York tomorrow after attending the funeral. Two other sons, Sidney and Joseph, also survive.

Televise Edison Dinner

The Thomas Edison centennial dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here on Feb. 11 will be covered over National Broadcasting's television station WNBT at 9:15 P. M.

SAG Asks AFL End Jurisdictional Rows

MIAMI, Feb. 2.—A wire from Robert Montgomery, Screen Actors Guild president, requesting the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to take action during its meeting here to prevent jurisdictional disputes among A. F. of L. unions, such as that which occasioned the current Hollywood studio strike, was read to the assemblage here on Friday.

Action on the request, which parallels another made by the Associated Actors & Artistes of America, is expected before the council adjourns.

Gilbert Opens New Branch on Coast

Marc Gilbert Film Co., distributor of American and foreign films, with headquarters here, has opened a branch in Los Angeles. The exchange will have state-rights on product in a territory covering 13 Western states and will book two first-runs in Los Angeles, two in San Francisco and five in other states on the Coast.

Gilbert has also concluded negotiations to act as purchasing agent for the Mayan Theatre, Los Angeles and the Melvan, Hollywood.

Scofield and Taylor Form Producing Firm

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Ed Scofield and Sam Taylor have formed Scofield-Taylor Productions, to produce under the trademark of Four Leaf Clover Pictures, with Bert Harrison as treasurer, Eugene H. Levy, secretary, and Bert Vine, director of press relations.

"Las Vegas," the first picture, will start in April, with Arthur Treacher and others.

Bain Joins Turner

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—Keith Bain, publicity man and band manager, who at one time managed Lawrence Welk's orchestra, has been added to Terry Turner's Midwest exploitation staff, and will be assigned a territory following his present "schooling" period under the tutelage of Bob Hickey and Bill Prager.

RKO Screening Feb. 18

RKO Radio's "The Farmer's Daughter" will have a New York trade showing on Feb. 18 in the Normandie Theater. Dore Schary produced.

Gauss to D. and C.

Joseph T. Gauss, recently art director of Hazard Advertising Co., and formerly an art director of Lord and Thomas, has joined the Donahue and Coe agency here.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

Sharp Drop in Production; Total Hits 34

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Production dropped off sharply, the shooting going down to 34 from the previous level of 41. Only two new films were started, whereas nine were completed; the production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "The Corpse Came C.O.D."

Started: "Broadway Baby," with Jean Porter, John Shelton, Ruth Donnelly, Doris Colleen, Ed Gargan, Douglas Wood, Vince Barnett.

Shooting: "The Lady from Shanghai," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman), "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier).

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Song of the Thin Man," "The Hucksters," "Song of Love," "The Birds and the Bees," "Living in a Big Way" (formerly "To Kiss and to Keep").

Monogram

Finished: "Panic."

Shooting: "Tragic Symphony."

Paramount

Finished: "Saigon."

Shooting: "Variety Girl," "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion), "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

RKO-Radio

Finished: "Under the Tonto Rim."

Started: "Tycoon," with John Wayne, Laraine Day, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Anthony Quinn, James Gleason, Judith Anderson.

Shooting: "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie."

Republic

Finished: "Twilight on the Rio Grande."

Selznick

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Mother Wore Tights," "The Crimson Key" (Sol Wurtzel).

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Moss Rose," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "It's Only Human."

United Artists

Finished: "The Other Love" (Enterprise).

Shooting: "Stork Bites Man" (Comet), "Body and Soul" (Enterprise), "Heaven Only Knows" (Nebenzal), "Vendetta" (California).

Universal-International

Shooting: "Time Out of Mind," "Ivy" (Interwood).

Warners

Finished: "Dark Passage."

Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "Deep Valley," "The Woman in White," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz).

'It Happened on 5th Avenue'

(*Continued from page* 1)

The veteran, quite naturally, has friends, also homeless vets, and they, too, move into the mansion with their wives and children. To complicate matters, the millionaire's daughter, fed up with finishing school, comes home to find herself suspected of stealing her own mink coat.

The magnate, meanwhile, arrives in New York in search of his daughter, and before he knows what it's all about, the young lady has persuaded him to conceal his identity and join the little group of squatters, in order to learn at first hand the character and qualities of the veteran on whom his daughter has set her heart. Quick-tempered and tyrannical, he is about to give the whole show away when his daughter, in despair, appeals to her mother, the magnate's divorced wife. She, too, arrives to add to the confusion and conflict.

Of conflict there is considerable, since the war veterans want to buy some property on which magnate is also bidding, the girl wants to marry the veteran, the magnate doesn't want her to, and the mother wants her daughter's happiness above all. That the right people will get the right things in the end is a foregone conclusion.

Charles Ruggles, as the magnate, turns in a notable performance, and Victor Moore, playing the tramp, is inimitable. Gale Storm, in the ingenue lead, has seldom been seen to better advantage.

The picture throughout is replete with deft and tender scenes, with memorable moments of warmth and charm. Four songs by Harry Revel are skillfully worked into the film's structure.

Running time, 115 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set. THALIA BELL

"The Red House"

(*United Artists-Lesser*)

GEORGE AGNEW CHAMBERLAIN'S *Saturday Evening Post* story of a New Jersey dirt-farmer mentally befogged, and of murder and mystery, is given vivid, dramatically important expression in "The Red House." Edward G. Robinson, Lon McCallister and Judith Anderson provide the commercially significant names; Sol Lesser's production could hardly encounter box-office difficulties.

Skilled hands in all departments have fashioned Chamberlain's piece into the gripping film that it is. Performances by those already named, plus Allene Roberts, Julie London and Rory Calhoun, all in well sketched characterizations, are splendid. Delmer Daves' direction of his own screenplay is unhurried, effectively so. The camera work, lighting and mood music are unusually good, lending dramatic emphasis to nearly every scene. Remarkable, too, are the settings.

A Red House, although seen only briefly, is the motivating force of the plot, known only to Robinson and Miss Anderson, playing his sister, as the home of his loved one and her husband. Robinson had murdered the couple 15 years ago. Miss Roberts and McCallister, who with Calhoun and Miss London round out the small farm group principally concerned, are aware of the existence of this house in the woods, and suspect that mystery is attached thereto.

The story deviates a bit from its main line with some bits of romance involving McCallister and Miss London, with Roberts playing the third party. Development of the theme is taut and tense as Robinson gradually loses his mind trying to keep his secret and hold his adopted daughter, Miss Roberts, who actually was the offspring of the woman he had killed.

It builds to a startling climax as Robinson, now known to be the murderer, elects to evade the police by submerging his automobile and himself in a watery grave, in an old ice house next to the Red House, into which he had placed his victims of 15 years ago.

Running time, 100 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, Feb. 8. GENE ARNEEL

"Easy Come, Easy Go"

Hollywood, Feb. 2

(*Paramount*)

IN essence a characterization by Barry Fitzgerald, with Diana Lynn, Sonny Tufts, Dick Foran, Frank McHugh, Allen Jenkins, John Litel and some others present in roles designed to focus attention upon the principal portrayal, this production, by Kenneth Macgowan, from a screenplay by Francis Edwards Faragoh, John McNulty and Anne Froelick, based on some sketches by McNulty, is as good or as bad, commercially speaking, as Fitzgerald is popular or not in a given exhibition area.

As directed by John Farrow, it is a leisurely enactment, in Irish brogue, of a tale about a Third Avenue rooming-house keeper and sign painter whose addiction to betting on the ponies, and general improvidence, complicates the lives of his family and friends. The brogue is laid on thickly, although Fitzgerald handles it well, and the stage business in which the star is assigned to engage is a part which used to be associated automatically with what was known generically as the "Irish comic."

In the tale, handled totally in light manner, Fitzgerald is forever borrowing money to bet with a bookie on some horse or other, and losing most of the time. To keep his daughter, Miss Lynn, from marrying Sonny Tufts, a returned sailor, or Dick Foran, a policeman, he stretches truth beyond the breaking point, and things go from bad to worse until, by a chain of circumstances too devious to follow with a synopsis, his daughter and a lady roomer save the family fortunes by betting on a horse that wins. It is the kind of comedy in which the individual incidents, rather than the whole, are counted upon to produce laughs.

Running time, 78 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set. WILLIAM R. WEAVER

20th-Fox to Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

pictures for 1947.

The conference will be attended by all district and branch managers in the U. S., as well as sales executives and sales department heads of the home office. There will also be separate divisional meetings to discuss special problems of individual territories.

Spyros P. Skouras, president, will address the meeting, giving a first-hand report of his recent visit to the company's Hollywood studios, and outlining plans for pictures scheduled for release during the year.

Scheduled to attend from the home office are: Executive vice-president W. C. Michel; treasurer Donald Henderson; assistant treasurer and comptroller W. J. Eadie; general counsel Otto Koegel; general sales manager W. J. Kupper; Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity; John Caskey, counsel; sales manager W. C. Gehring, A. W. Smith Jr., Herman Wobber and Harry Ballance, and Jack Bloom, Edwin H. Collins, Martin Moskowitz, Peter Levathes and Jack Sichelman.

District Managers

District managers who will attend include: C. E. Peppiatt, Atlantic; E. X. Callahan, Northeast; Paul S. Wilson, southeast; Phil Longdon, Southwest; Jack H. Lorentz, Great Lakes; J. J. Grady, mideast; M. A. Levy, Prairie; Ward E. Scott, Midwest; Charles L. Walker, Mountain; Bryan D. Stoner, Pacific; Sydney Samson, Canada; Raymond E. Moon, Eastern New York State.

Branch managers who will attend include: Joseph B. Rosen, Albany; Sam Gross, Philadelphia; Weldon Waters, Pittsburgh; C. G. Norris, Washington; James M. Connolly, Boston; William Graham, acting manager, Buffalo; Benjamin A. Simon, New Haven; Fred R. Dodson, Atlanta; J. E. Holston, Charlotte; Mark Sheridan, New Orleans; H. L. Beecroft, Dallas; Tom W. Young, Memphis; Grady L. James, sales manager, Oklahoma City; Tom R. Gilliam, Chicago; Joseph J. Lee, Detroit; Joseph R. Neger, Milwaukee; Leavitt J. Bugie, Cincinnati; J. J. Schmertz, Cleveland; George T. Landis, Indianapolis.

Others

Also: Gordon F. Halloran, Des Moines; Jack S. Cohan, Minneapolis; Joseph E. Scott, Omaha; George W. Fuller, Kansas City; Benjamin B. Reingold, St. Louis; V. J. Dugan, Denver; Clyde Blasius, Salt Lake City; Clyde W. Eckhardt, Los Angeles; Charles F. Powers, Portland; Joseph M. Podoloff, San Francisco; Frank Drew, Seattle.

An entire session of the meetings will be devoted to advertising plans, with Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity, presiding. It is expected that by Feb. 17 there will be ready sufficient material to place on exhibition accessories that will be available on all pictures right through the Spring. Newspaper, magazine and radio advertising plans, already approved, will be detailed.

Editing Course by Hess

Louis Hess, editor-in-chief of All American News Productions, is conducting a class in editing at the New Institute, Brooklyn, which has various stage and film courses.

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No Forum Tie-Up Now: Allied Board

Washington, Feb. 2.—The Allied States board of directors, on the recommendation of counsel Abram F. Myers, agreed at its meeting here Friday that it would be unwise for Allied to obligate itself to an industry-wide forum until the U. S. Supreme Court has finally acted in the industry anti-trust suit.

Myers, in his report to the board, stated that there is "nothing to discuss until the Supreme Court judgment is rendered."

MGM Sales Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

ager, stated that he has not met with the division chiefs together in three months and in that time a number of subjects have come up for attention.

Release plans for "The Yearling," which opens at the State Lake Theatre, here, this month, are expected to be announced following the session. Division managers to attend are John J. Maloney, Central division, from Pittsburgh; John P. Byrne, Eastern, New York, and Rudolph Berger, Southern, New Orleans. Edward M. Saunders and Edwin W. Aaron, assistant general sales managers, also will attend from New York.

Space Increased

(*Continued from page* 1)

a trip to Hollywood, where he sought to make immediate arrangements to supplement or supplant the company's two warehouses, which have a combined storage capacity of about 50,000,000 feet of stock. He found, however, that some delay will be necessary because of currently inflated real estate values and Government restrictions on new construction.

Some time ago, German pointed out, property was acquired at McCadden Place and Santa Monica Boulevard, which is somewhat removed from the congested vicinity of the present warehouses, but it now develops that further removal from the crowded area will be necessary.

Raw stock demands for distribution as well as production are due to increase within the next few years, German said, pointing out that there will be more theatres to service than at present. Already the demand has begun, with the average picture now requiring 350 or 400 prints in contrast to approximately 275 during the war, he added.

Allied Board Votes Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

and cooperate with other independent exhibitor organizations.

The board approved the flat-rental proposal sent to New York by the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations and urged that the CIEA efforts continue with Allied cooperation.

Myers was authorized by the board to convey to the Attorney General the board's appreciation for his steadfastness in pressing for complete divorcement. Also the skill and tenacity with which Robert L. Wright handled the industry case in the lower court was praised by the board.

In Myers' letter to Attorney General Tom Clark, he will earnestly request that the Government promptly appeal to the Supreme Court with a view toward obtaining complete divorcement.

Allied on Friday refused to appoint a representative to the 12-man Industry-Government Film Committee. The action was taken at the recommendation of Myers, who contended that the present Allied reviewing committee operating under Lee Newbury of New Jersey Allied is sufficient to handle exhibitor-Government relations.

The matter of production was discussed by the board, and it was agreed that Irving Dollinger, chairman of the production committee, will continue to negotiate with independent producers for 12 films, the exhibition to be guaranteed by Allied members. Dollinger was given authority to accept bids for the films for 30 days. The final plan will be adopted by the board at its summer meeting. Appearing before the board was Stanley Neal, a promoter interested in handling the production of films for Allied.

There was some discussion about the matter of distribution. If the films are made by an independent, Allied will be required to provide distribution facilities. It was suggested that Allied might set up two or more of its members in a production company, but Meyers, acting as general counsel, advised against such a move. Later Myers commented that for exhibitors to directly enter either production or distribution would be "unlawful" and in violation of the anti-trust laws. Myers was quick to point out that Allied is not "entering production," but merely guaranteeing the exhibition of a group of 12 films.

The major exhibitor problem today is a growing trend toward state and municipal regulations harmful to the industry, Myers said. The board discussed exhibitor public relations "on a grass roots" level and decided to establish a clearing house at Washington headquarters to distribute information on methods of combating local legislation and regulation.

Myers spoke particularly of the growing number of state and city governments which are establishing local admissions taxes, censorship bills, special age rules for theatre admission and other types of rules and regulations. "It is an exhibitor job. We must all work together on a local level in order to combat this dangerous trend," Myers asserted.

Commenting to the board on the continuation of national excise rates including the 20 per cent admissions tax rate, Myers said that nobody could halt the present legislation, and that he believes no organization will try. The bill has already passed the House.

Pete Woods of Ohio Allied reported on the increasing shortage of product. He said that in 1941 there were 353 films made, and in 1946 only 221 were produced. Said Woods: "It is more profitable for the producers and distributors to keep the number of films at an absolute minimum. In 1941 each picture made a profit averaging $100,000; and in 1946, the majors received $580,000 on the average per picture." Woods is working with Dollinger in the production deal for Allied.

Coast Pastor Heads Consultative Group

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—Los Angeles Church Federation secretary Dr. E. C. Farnham has appointed Dr. Louis Evans, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, as chairman of the Protestant Committee to cooperate with New York's Protestant Film Committee in setting up a consultative office in Hollywood for counselling producers on scripts and stories from the Protestant viewpoint. As presently planned, the office here would make its service available to producers on a volunteer basis only.

Film Accuracy

(*Continued from page* 1)

ment for a government news service and film export regulations, Price declared that "these alien outcroppings spring from a fear by public officials that producers and publishers are incapable of conducting their affairs without damage to the public interest."

The same distrust, Price said, lies behind motion picture censorship in seven American states. "Let it be understood," he added, "that in speaking of censorship I do not refer to the normal requirements of decency which apply to all American citizens and institutions. The laws against political subversion, libel, slander, blasphemy and pornography are universal and no one can quarrel with them. These laws can be invoked against any newspaper, any broadcast or any motion picture which outrages the moral standards of civilized society. It is a quite different and un-American approach, however, when states and communities go the additional length of setting up censor boards, requiring prior approval and issuing licenses. That is censorship, exactly as it is practiced in the countries which most abhor civil liberties and free enterprise."

Turning to the international sphere, Price said: "Some of the nations which support freedom of communication in principle speak from the other side of the mouth about new barriers against the American motion picture. It is the American motion picture which can be the greatest instrument of all toward international understanding. It is the American picture which has taught the world the miracle of the screen and won the gratitude and idolatry of countless millions abroad. To raise new barriers against it is a backward step toward the dark recesses of isolation. Barriers beget barriers. No one ever won the esteem and cooperation of his neighbors through a locked-door policy."

To Address Advertisers

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—Byron Price, Hollywood vice-president of the Motion Picture Association, will address the Los Angeles Advertising Club at its weekly meeting Feb. 11.

Shorts Rental Rise

(*Continued from page* 1)

of steadily rising labor and production costs, several distributors report large-standing exhibitor resistance, ranging from "unqualified refusal" to an inclination toward compromise, mingled with "not infrequent" exhibitor willingness to cooperate in preserving the short subject as an institution.

As expected, the distributors are finding strongest resistance where dual-features are shown, while in those theatres which adhere to single feature policies and, which, perforce, rely on shorts to fill programs, resistance is less pronounced generally. A theatre's size, money-making capacity, and other like considerations influence the extent to which exhibitors cooperate.

A spokesman for one of the larger independent metropolitan New York circuits predicts unreservedly that the distributors "are not going to get as much as a 25 per cent increase," regardless of their efforts. A spokesman for another, equally large, circuit here admits he has been paying "a little more" from time to time, with the size of the increase depending on its individual theatre outlets' capacities for absorbing the amounts.

Meanwhile, newsreel theatres, whose dependence on shorts is even greater than that of single-feature houses, find themselves in a unique position in the drive for higher rentals. Because their programs are made up entirely of newsreels and short subjects, the newsreel theatres "have always been required to pay higher rentals for shorts than have feature theatres," according to the head of one such circuit here. He views the newsreel theatres as being in a "tight spot" in this connection, and reports the newsreel theatres generally are putting up resistance to the higher rentals drive.

Typical of the distributors' feeling in connection with the drive's progress is that voiced by Paul N. Lazarus, Sr., United Artists sales executive, who describes distribution's accomplishments toward getting higher short subject rentals as "a far cry from what they should be." There is some improvement from the distributor viewpoint, he reports, adding that "we are trying to improve our position all the time."

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The Permanent Charities Committee
OF
The Motion Picture Industry

"The character of the Red Cross and its responsibilities under International Treaty and its Congressional Charter are such that the national interests will best be served if the Red Cross maintains direct contact with the people for the membership and support necessary for its work at home and abroad."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT—1942

THE Permanent Charities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry has announced its intention to offer to American Red Cross $350,000, part of a sum of money that committee raised in a joint fund raising campaign in the Motion Picture Industry *despite the fact that the Permanent Charities Committee knew that American Red Cross could not participate in any joint fund raising campaign.*

Statements that the American Red Cross is unwilling to accept $350,000 from the Permanent Charities Committee because that sum from the Motion Picture Industry which grossed $325,000,000 in 1945 represents only one-half of one percent of the Red Cross goal of sixty million dollars in 1947, are not true. *The amount involved is not an issue.*

The real issue is that nothing can be permitted to deprive American Red Cross either of its right to fulfill its obligations for humanitarian service to the American people by methods it has demonstrated to be efficient or of its right to maintain an organization in which all the people can be members and participate directly.

American Red Cross will barter neither its right to invite anyone to be a member nor the right of any American citizen to become a member.

American Red Cross will not be party to any scheme that will lead to dictation by other groups with motives and interests that would undermine the Red Cross and all for which it stands.

The American Red Cross may not participate in joint fund raising whether that joint fund raising is conducted by the Permanent Charities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry or any other organization.

This long established policy of American Red Cross is not the policy of any one individual. It is a policy that has been considered and reconsidered from time to time since 1936 by the Central Committee, the governing body of American Red Cross, and reaffirmed on every occasion. *It is a policy that has been well known to all fund raising groups, including the Permanent Charities Committee.*

The reason why American Red Cross may not participate in joint fund raising with others is as follows:

American Red Cross may not assign or delegate to others, in whole or in part, the obligations imposed upon it by international treaties, to which the U. S. Government is a signatory, and by its congressional charter. Neither can it share with others, directly or indirectly, its responsibility to carry out those obligations. When it participates in joint fund raising it permits others (at best, only slightly familiar with its obligations and activities) to determine from year to year how much money, if any, American Red Cross will receive and thus, in turn, permit those others to determine the breadth of its program and the extent to which American Red Cross may fulfill its obligations to the American people.

If American Red Cross participates in one joint fund raising activity, such as that conducted by the Permanent Charities Committee in the Motion Picture Industry, it must, of course, participate in all other joint fund raising activities. The Motion Picture Industry is only one of 446 major industries in this country. There are thousands of other groups and organizations. The result obviously would be that *by participating in joint fund raising, American Red Cross would never know from year to year how much money it would have to carry out its obligations to the American people or plan an intelligent program, nor would it be able to have a membership organization open to all of the people of America.*

The foregoing statements are not just opinions. They are statements of fact based on a disastrous experience which American Red Cross suffered after World War I, when some of its chapters submitted to exactly the same kind of pressure that is now being brought by the Permanent Charities Committee to participate in joint fund raising. At that time about 400 chapters engaged with other organizations in joint fund raising with the result that American Red Cross lost its identity in those chapters and was prevented from carrying out its program particularly in dealing with emergency situations. In 1936, therefore, the Central Committee of American Red Cross reasserted its policy and ever since that time has adhered strictly to the policy of *non*-participation by American Red Cross in joint fund raising.

From 1940 to 1945 the Permanent Charities Committee carried on separate drives in the Motion Picture Industry for the American Red Cross and others. The change to joint fund raising by the Permanent Charities Committee occurred as recently as 1945. It is clear, therefore, that there would be no violation of principle if a separate drive was conducted in the Motion Picture Industry for the American Red Cross in March, 1947, as was the case prior to 1945.

There is, however, a definite violation of the principle of fairness when a small group within the Motion Picture Industry deliberately attempts to mislead the Motion Picture Industry and the public into believing that American Red Cross will refuse to accept—when and if offered—$350,000 only because a mere matter of method is involved in the scheme. *Fundamental principles are involved: principles without which there could be no American Red Cross.*

American Red Cross

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 24 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1947 TEN CENTS

MPTOA Will Back Industry Arbitration

Exhibitors Quiz Wright At Virginia MPTO Meet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A system of "voluntary" industry arbitration should be adopted by all segments of the industry and will be proposed by the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America at its planned industry wide forum in New York March 10-11, Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, disclosed here today at the annual convention of the Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Owners.

Levy said the industry must work out some system of arbitration to settle internal disputes. Otherwise, he warned, continuous disagreement and chaos would result.

A distributor as well as an exhibitor may propose competitive bidding

(*Continued on page* 8)

'UK Will Not Nationalize'

There will be no nationalization by the British government "of anything that has to do with art, which includes motion pictures, in the eyes of the Labor government," Jack L. Warner, vice-president and executive producer of Warner Brothers, disclosed here yesterday in relating an assurance given him by Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, and other British officials. Warner returned

(*Continued on page* 8)

'Yearling' a Special To Be Sold on Bids

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—M-G-M will sell its "The Yearling" as a special and in accordance with the bidding provisions of the consent decree, it was announced here today after the first day of a two-day meeting between William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager, and his field sales managers and home office executives, at the Drake Hotel.

It is planned to release the picture

(*Continued on page* 11)

Johnston, All Others Renamed by AMPP

Hollywood, Feb. 3. — Eric Johnston was re-elected president, Byron Price was re-elected executive vice-president and board chairman, and all other officers, directors and executive committee members were re-elected by the Association of Motion Picture Producers, Inc., at its annual meeting today.

Allied Maps Plans For Spring Meeting

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Allied States will hold a national convention in the late spring or early summer probably in Chicago.

Members of the Allied board of directors who met here at the weekend discussed plans for the convention but did not settle upon a date or place. In addition to Chicago, invitations for the convention have been received from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

(*Continued on page* 8)

Action Deferred on New MPA Surveys

The industry's Research Committee was unable to reach any conclusions on which subjects would be added this year to the Motion Picture Association's survey work, at a meeting yesterday at the MPA office here, presided over by Eric A. Johnston. As a result, the meeting was adjourned to next week.

The MPA survey department, headed by Robert Chambers, is now at

(*Continued on page* 8)

DECREE PETITIONS DENIED BY COURT

Theatre Television In Jeopardy: SMPE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The Society of Motion Picture Engineers will display strong opposition to revised allocation of television frequencies, as proposed by the Federal Communications Commission, at an FCC hearing tomorrow, on the grounds that development of theatre television would be severely hampered.

In a statement to be presented by Paul L. Larsen for the SMPE, the organization will contend that no frequency bands would be available for experimentation for new television services, specifically, large screen video in film houses. The FCC-proposed allocations are between 1,000 and 13,000 megacycles to non-Government fixed and mobile services.

In effect SMPE will argue that if theatre television is to evolve into a

(*Continued on page* 11)

Congress May End U. S. Film Funds

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Rep. John Taber, chairman of the House appropriations committee, has made it clear that the committee will not vote to continue the Office of Government Reports, which includes the principal arm of Federal motion picture activities.

In addition, appropriations for many public relations activities of the Executive branch of the Government,

(*Continued on page* 11)

Refuse Delay Beyond July 1 on Bidding; Minor Change on Pools

Federal Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright yesterday denied virtually all the relief from their judgment sought by the eight defendants following entry of a final decree in the industry anti-trust suit on Dec. 31.

Only one slight modification was granted, the theatre-owning defendants being given until July 1 of this year to terminate pooling agreements with independent exhibitors and leases of houses to independents. The petitioners had sought a two-year stay in these provisions, which under the original order would have become effective on March 1,

(*Continued on page* 8)

Para. Raises '47 Lineup

The conference of Paramount studio, home office and British officials in Hollywood last week has resulted in a decision to boost the number of releases planned by the company for 1946-1947, it was disclosed here yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, following his return from the Coast meetings. The number of the increase has not been determined.

The Paramount sales chief said the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Equipment Meeting Set for Washington

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Roy Boomer, secretary-treasurer of the TESMA, discloses that arrangements for the annual national trade show and conventions of the Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers' Association and the Theatre Equipment Dealers Protective Association have been completed. The joint convention will be held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, on Sept. 24-29.

Exhibitor Claims Local Admission Tax Unfair, Court Agrees with Him

San Bernardino, Cal., Feb. 3.—An admission tax case which will probably have a bearing on future local action against municipal admission levies in other situations, has just been decided in favor of the exhibitor in the case of Knapp versus San Bernardino.

M. Knapp, operator of a local independent theatre, protested the unfairness of the imposition of admission taxes on his house. After lengthy court hearings, the judicial opinion was rendered in favor of the theatre.

Fox West Coast Theatres and Warner Brothers prosecuted the case and bore the total cost, which ran in excess of $50,000. Knapp allowed his name to be used in the test case with the stipulated provision he would bear no cost of the action. No independent theatre or independent theatre organization contributed to the expense involved in the court action.

1 Weekly from UI For Next 2 Months

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Starting immediately, Universal - International goes into one of its heaviest production schedules with a top-budget picture scheduled to go before cameras each week for the next eight weeks.

First is Diana Productions' "Secret Beyond the Door," starring Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave, produced and directed by Fritz Lang and scheduled to hit the stage on Thursday. Following in order are: Mark Hellinger's "Brute Force," starring Burt Lancaster, Charles Bickford and Hume Cronyn, and directed by Jules Dassin; "For the Love of Mary," headlined by Deanna Durbin, John Hall, Donald O'Connor and Charles Winninger, with Irving Pichel directing for producer Joseph Sistrom; "Black Velvet," starring Vincent Price, Ella Raines and Edmond O'Brien, directed by Michael Gordon, produced by Jerry Bresler; "Delusion," which will be S. P. Eagle's first production for U-I, directed by Compton Bennett; "Lost Love," based upon Henry James' novel, "Aspern Papers," adapted by Leonardo Bercovici, with Susan Hayward starring, Martin Gabel directing; Douglas Fairbanks will produce and star in "The Exile," his first for U-I.

Completing the cycle are "Singapore," starring Fred MacMurray; Mike Todd's first picture, "Great Son," adapted from Edna Ferber's novel, and "Thunder on the Hill" in Technicolor, starring Joan Fontaine, directed by Robert Siodmak, produced by Joseph Sistrom.

Johnston Promotes 2 In MPEA, MPA

Alexander S. Aronson has been promoted by Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association, president, in a switch to the MPA from the Motion Picture Export Association, and, at the same time, appointed John Gilman McCarthy to the MPEA. Aronson, who will assist Gerald M. Mayer, managing director of the MPA's international division, will, in turn be replaced in the MPEA by Joe C. Goltz, who has spent 18 years in foreign film distribution, principally with United Artists and M-G-M.

McCarthy has operated in other commercial fields in London and on the Continent, while Aronson has been in foreign film activities for 30 years.

Navy Honors FC

Film Classics has been awarded a "Certificate of Achievement" by Monroe Kelly, Rear Admiral and Navy Commandant at the third Naval District, for "contributing to the expeditious servicing of motion pictures to Naval personnel throughout the world."

In This Issue

"Nora Prentiss" is reviewed on page 7. Estimates of key city grosses appear on page 10.

Personal Mention

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, Universal board chairman, has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

•

BEN KALMENSON, vice-president and general sales manager of Warners, accompanied by JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager, and SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager, are in Boston from New York.

•

IRVING KAPLAN, of MOTION PICTURE DAILY's editorial staff, and MRS. KAPLAN (nee RUTH WELLMAN), who were married here on Jan. 25, have returned from a week's honeymoon in Washington.

•

ROY O. DISNEY, president of Walt Disney Productions, and WILLIAM LEVY, international sales supervisor, have left New York for the Coast.

•

TED ROUTSON has resumed as publicity chief at the Hippodrome, Baltimore, after having managed the Little Theatre, there.

•

KENNETH CLARK, Motion Picture Association public relations director, will arrive in New York today from Washington.

•

GROVER PARSONS, Southern district manager of PRC, has returned to Atlanta from a tour of his territory.

•

ED FITZPATRICK, manager of Loew's Poli, Waterbury, Conn., has returned to his desk following illness.

•

MRS. WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Astor Pictures of Georgia, has returned to Atlanta from New York.

•

H. C. HAUTMAN, Columbia's branch operations manager, has been an Atlanta visitor.

•

J. KOPFSTEIN, Astor Pictures, is en route back to New York from Miami.

•

ISADOR M. RAPPAPORT, Baltimore theatre owner, is vacationing in Florida.

•

IRVING SOCHIN, general manager of Theatre Owners Corp., Cincinnati, is in New York.

•

JULES LEVEY, independent producer, has left Hollywood for New York

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, and LEM JONES, his assistant, are due in New York from Hollywood the middle of this week.

•

GLORIA BALABAN, daughter of DAVID BALABAN, Balaban and Katz executive, Chicago, was married here at the weekend to LEE WOLFMAN of Houston, Tex. The newlyweds have embarked on a Caribbean honeymoon. BALABAN left New York for Chicago yesterday.

•

JACK BERKSON of Screencraft Pictures, and MRS. BERKSON, left New York yesterday for Buffalo to welcome the arrival of their second grandchild, RICHARD ALAN, born to DR. and MRS. ROBERT S. BERKSON.

•

WILLIAM MOORING, motion picture editor of *Tidings*, will leave Hollywood Thursday for a two-month speaking tour in 40 cities.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave New York today for Louisville.

•

EDWARD L. WALTON, Republic's assistant general sales manager, has returned to New York from the Midwest.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation manager, has returned to New York from a Southern tour.

•

AL ZIMBALIST, Film Classics national advertising chief, left New York yesterday for Philadelphia.

•

SID MESIBOV, Paramount's assistant exploitation manager, is in Washington from New York.

•

ELLA RAINES and MAJOR ROBIN OLDS will be married in Hollywood on Thursday.

•

JASPER HONE, owner of the Opera House, Presque Isle, Me., is visiting New York.

•

DAVID SIEGEL, president of Triumph Pictures, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

WILLIAM GOLDMAN, Philadelphia theatre owner, is vacationing in Bermuda.

Joe Loeffler Named A Republic Manager

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—Joe Loeffler, for the past two years on the sales staff of the Minneapolis Paramount exchange, and a 15-year veteran in the film business, has been named branch manager of the Minneapolis Republic exchange. He succeeds W. M. (Bill) Grant, resigned, and assumes his new duties on Feb. 15.

Loeffler's appointment to the Republic post was made by James R. Grainger, executive vice-president and general sales manager. He first came to Minneapolis as city salesman for RKO in 1940, and leaves the post of sales manager at Paramount to join Republic.

Donald Swartz Is On Own in Northwest

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—Stepping up his activities in the Minneapolis zone, Donald Swartz, who recently purchased the Independent Poster Exchange, Minneapolis, and arranged a distribution deal with Filmack Trailer and Preview service, announces completion of negotiations for distribution in the area of Astor pictures, headed by Robert M. Savini.

Swartz, former film salesman, exhibitor and co-owner with Abbott Swartz of the Minneapolis PRC franchise, resigned Jan. 1 as executive secretary of North Central Allied exhibitor organization to re-enter business for himself.

Asks House Probe Of Trade Treaties

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A demand for an investigation of the State Department reciprocal trade agreement program was made today in the House by Rep. Bertrand W. Gearhart (Cal.).

Calling the treaties "give-away agreements," Rep. Gearhart said the State Department should not keep secret the negotiations made at the Geneva conference. "What I fear is secrecy," he said. "If the Department is planning to lower tariff r[illegible]tions and bargain with other na[illegible]s for the free flow of American goods and services, the public has a right to be informed of all aspects of the negotiations."

Meanwhile, Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, is completing his testimony to be given before the Committee on Reciprocity on Feb. 6. Johnston will urge continuation of the trade program.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
Claudette COLBERT
Walter PIDGEON
June ALLYSON
in M-G-M's
'THE SECRET HEART'
IN PERSON
JOHN BOLES
RUBY HILL
Extra!
LORRAINE ROGNAN

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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THE LOCKET

...CHAINED A WOMAN TO A TERRIFYING PAST...

THE LOCKET

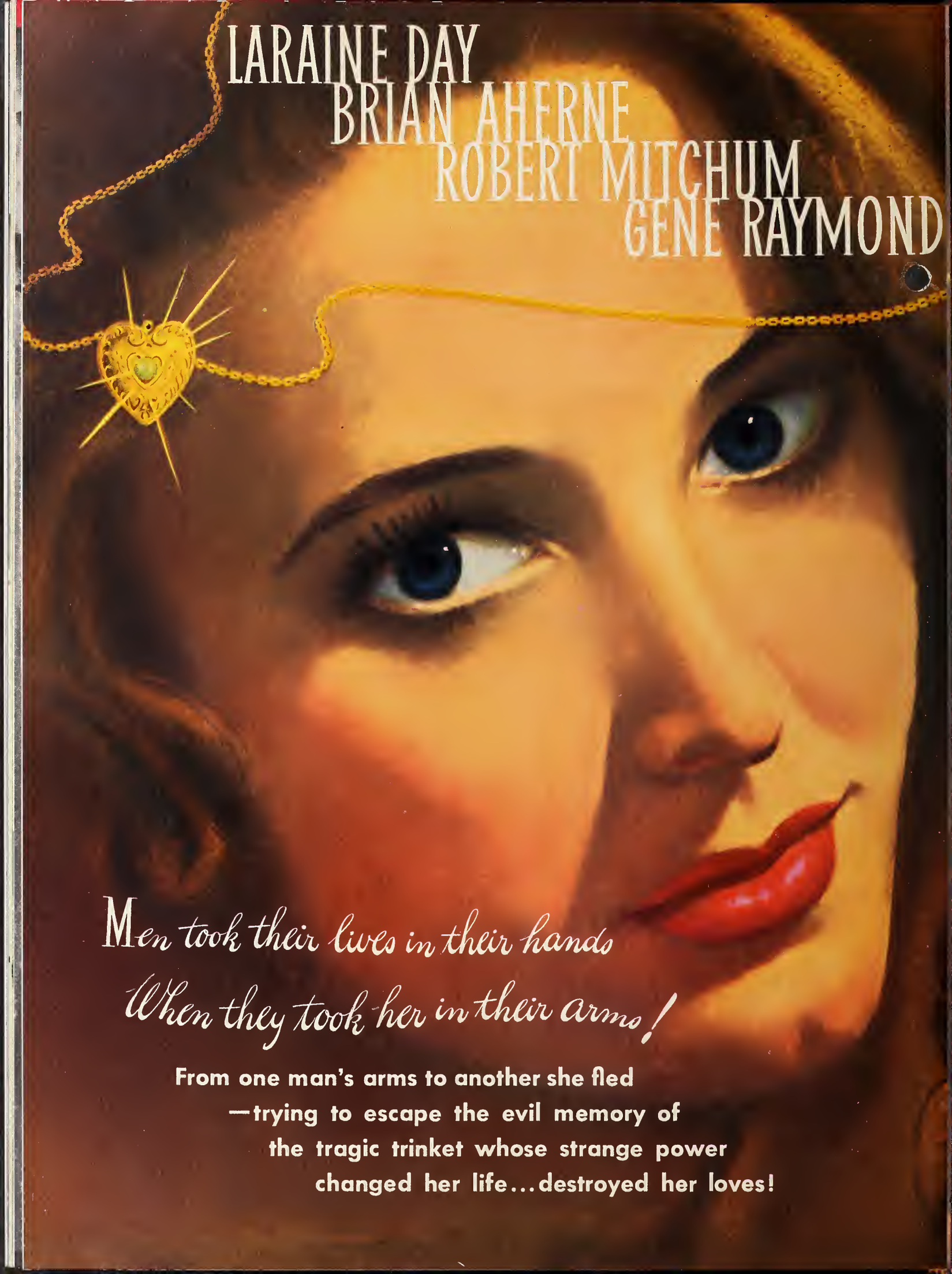
...DROVE HER TO RUIN ANY MAN SHE DARED TO LOVE...

THE LOCKET

...PLUNGED HER INTO THE MOST STORMY LIFE A WOMAN EVER HAD!

RKO PRESENTS

The Locket


LARAINE DAY
BRIAN AHERNE
ROBERT MITCHUM
GENE RAYMOND
Men took their lives in their hands
When they took her in their arms!
From one man's arms to another she fled
—trying to escape the evil memory of
the tragic trinket whose strange power
changed her life...destroyed her loves!

IN
The Locket
WITH
SHARYN MOFFETT • RICARDO CORTEZ • HENRY STEPHENSON
PRODUCED BY BERT GRANET
DIRECTED BY JOHN BRAHM
Written by SHERIDAN GIBNEY
RKO RADIO PICTURES

AD. CAMPAIGN TYPICALLY RKO 89,745,975 CIRCULATION

reached through full schedule that includes pages in all the leading weeklies and monthlies, plus four-color ads in the Magazine Sections or Supplements of 75 leading Sunday newspapers.

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LIFE, LOOK,
McCALL'S, COSMOPOLITAN,
TRUE STORY, SATURDAY EVENING POST,
COLLIER'S, WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION,
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, AMERICAN,
PIC, TRUE, REDBOOK, FAN LIST,
TRUE CONFESSIONS, LIBERTY,
AMERICAN WEEKLY, PARADE,
THIS WEEK, INDEPENDENT
SUPPLEMENTS,

LITHO U.S.A.

23 Field Men Named For 'Brotherhood'

Twenty-three field exploiters have been named to handle the "American Brotherhood Week" campaign during the week of Feb. 16-23. Charles Schlaifer is publicity chairman of the drive. "Brotherhood Week" is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

A minimum of 250,000 pledges have been promised by the nation's exhibitors. Slogan for this year's campaign is "Brotherhood—Believe It, Support it, Live it."

Following are the field men and the cities of drive headquarters: Chicago, W. G. Bishop; San Francisco, Ted Galanter; Los Angeles, Howard Herty; Philadelphia, Mike Weiss; Kansas City, Sy Freedman; Milwaukee, L. W. Orlove; Seattle and Portland, Murry Lafayette; Albany and New Haven, Floyd Fitzsimmons; Pittsburgh and Buffalo, Wally Allen; St. Louis, Irving Waterstreet; Salt Lake City, Ernest Van Pelt.

Also: Dallas, Memphis and Oklahoma City, Jim Gillespie; Cincinnati and Indianapolis, Jim Keefe; New Orleans, Ken Prickett; Atlanta and Charlotte, Spence Pierce; Detroit, Charles Dietz; Washington, William Michalson; Des Moines, Austin McGough; Boston, Al Fowler; Omaha, Gene Rich; Cleveland, Harry Weiss; Denver, William Prass; Minneapolis, Walter Hoffman.

8 Missouri Houses Sold to New Circuit

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—One of the biggest theatre deals in this territory in several years was closed when George Karsch, head of a circuit bearing his name, sold his eight houses in Southeastern Missouri to the recently-formed Edwards and Harris Theatre Co., which is controlled by J. Harold Harris, who had been general manager for the H. J. Griffith Circuit's 34 theatres in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, and Tom Edwards, Missouri exhibitor. Both have been in exhibition in the Midwest for many years.

House Committee to Quiz FCC Officials

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Rep. Charles A. Wolverton (N. J.) chairman of the House interstate and foreign commerce committee, said today that officials of the Federal Communications Commission will be called before his group to explain the functions of the Commission and recommend changes in legislation.

Wolverton said he has already discussed the matter with FCC Chairman Charles Denny. The Commission chairman expressed an interest in the proposed hearings and agreed to cooperate, Rep. Wolverton added.

4 Atlanta Houses Net $12,000 for 'Dimes'

ATLANTA, Feb. 3.—W. K. Jenkins, chairman of the March of Dimes Drive for the state's theatres, reveals that the Fox, Roxy, Paramount and Capital collected $12,000 in seven days. Of this, the Fox patrons gave more than $6,000.

There are 50 motion picture houses in Greater Atlanta, and they joined the drive 100 per cent.

Review

"Nora Prentiss"

(Warner Brothers)

Hollywood, Feb. 3

AN unusually adroit handling of an intricate story accounts for remarkably sustained interest built up by this modern melodrama, strictly adult in theme, which winds up with a doctor convicted, quite plausibly, of his own murder. Ann Sheridan, supplying the principal name to bill with and a convincing performance as well, and Kent Smith, a recruit from the stage who is quite likely to become a marquee personality as time goes on, have the top roles, supported by Robert Alda, Bruce Bennett, Rosemary DeCamp and competent lesser personnel. The film is for the mature only, but promises to do right well commercially if handled accordingly.

N. Richard Nash's screenplay, based on a story by Paul Webster and Jack Sobell, traces with more skill and detail than can be done in synopsis, the experiences of a highly respected San Francisco physician who falls in love with a nightclub singer and, on the point of asking his wife for a divorce so he can marry the girl, seizes an opportunity to disguise the body of a dead patient so that it will be identified as his own, leaving him free to join the girl in New York. He is successful in the deception, save that the police pronounce the death a murder instead of a suicide, but fear of recognition restricts his movements until a facial operation, following a fight and accidental injury, changes his appearance entirely. Then the police, matching his finger prints with those found in his office and believed to be those of his supposed murderer, arrest him for the crime. He stands mute through the trial for the murder of himself and, in a final scene with the girl, declares it is best for all concerned that he be executed. It is a strange tale, and conclusion, but a fascinating picture. Production by William Jacobs and direction by Vincent Sherman are up to standard throughout.

Running time, 113 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

Henry G. Plitt Joins Keegan at Northio

Henry G. Plitt has become the associate of Jack R. Keegan, general manager of Northio Theatres, Ohio and Kentucky Paramount circuit affiliate, the company disclosed here yesterday at its home office. Plitt will have headquarters in Cincinnati.

He is a former major in the 101st Army Airborne Division, receiving wartime recognition for having been the first paratrooper to invade Normandy and for his participation in the campaign for capturing Julius Streicher. Plitt was twice awarded the Silver Star and three times the Purple Heart. Upon his discharge he joined Paramount's theatre department in New York, handling special assignments in the Paramount-Richards and United Detroit circuits. Prior to entering the Army, Plitt was an attorney in New York.

Deny W.B. Ban on 'Abie's Irish Rose'

Warner Brothers' officials yesterday denied a published report that orders had been issued prohibiting the company's theatres from booking "Abie's Irish Rose."

It was stated that while, to date, the picture has not played Warner theatres it was solely the result of decisions by district and zone managers who felt that they might be courting public demonstrations and protests in their localities if they were to do so. No orders to that effect have been issued, however, it was said.

Evans Head of Films For CBS Television

Edward R. Evans, formerly a director for RKO Pathe's "This Is America" series, has been named head of the CBS Television film department. He succeeds Hans Burger, who resigned last week to become production supervisor for the United Nation's film division.

Gevaert Buys Mill For $75,000 in Mass.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Feb. 3.—The Gevaert Co. of America, described as the third largest supplier of the motion picture industry with photographic supplies, has purchased a mill here for $75,000.

The purchase, according to Leo Stuckens, Gavaert vice-president and manager of the seven-year-old Williamstown plant, will enable the company to expand operations there. This had been stalled for years because of a dearth of storage space. Eventually, he said, the company will also use its North Adams site for some manufacturing steps. It will become the company's second in the U. S.

Harvey Elected Head Of California ITO

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 3.—Rotus Harvey of Westland Theatres, has been elected president of the Northern California Independent Thatre Owners Association, and the following also were elected: Harry P. Franklin, Goldberg Theatres, vice-president; Ben Levin, General Theatrical, secretary; directors: Sid Weisbaum, Sunny-Mount Theatres; Homer Tegtmeier, Vogue, Salinas; Al Laurice, Menlo-Mayfield Theatres; Gerald Hardy, Hardy Theatres; Lee Dibble, Embassy; D. B. Levin, Grand; Ray Syufy, Rita Theatre, Vallejo.

Harvey and Ben Levin were reelected trustees of the PCCITO.

Einfeld Names Blum Enterprise Editor

Phyllis Blum has been appointed Eastern story editor in New York for Enterprise by Charles Einfeld, president. Miss Blum will first report to Marion Doran, story editor for Enterprise in Hollywood.

Miss Blum was in the editorial department of Samuel Goldwyn Productions for two and a half years. Prior to that she was in the RKO play department, and before that in the play department at M-G-M.

PCC Official Denies Red Cross Donation

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Following publication today of an advertisement in MOTION PICTURE DAILY and other papers that the American Red Cross had rejected a $350,000 donation by Hollywood's Permanent Charities Committee, the PCC denied that any allocations had been made except $30,000 contributed to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The PCC added that any donations this year will be made by PCC directors at the end of the current annual appeal. It was declared that "no other campaigns for funds will be made in the industry this year," and that "our experience has proved this to be the best method of raising charity funds in our industry." Last year the PCC made contributions to the Red Cross, the NFIP and the War Chest, which has been supplanted by the Community Chest.

The Red Cross advertisement had quoted the late President Roosevelt to support its contention that "national interests will be best served if the Red Cross maintains direct contact with the people for the membership and support necessary for its work."

Minnesota to Consider Daylight Saving Bill

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—Among measures being prepared by the Minnesota legislature is a proposal which would place the state on daylight savings during May, June and July. The bill has not yet been placed in the hopper. North Central Allied will oppose the measure, claiming daylight saving works a hardship on theatres.

NCA president Ben Berger has intimated he is not personally opposed to the proposed sales tax, but said he and Stanley Kane, executive director of the association, are watching for developments in the proposal of Representative French to tax amusement tickets 10 per cent, and the suggestion of Gov. Youngdahl for a 20 per cent tax on theatre tickets "whether the Government retains its wartime admission tax or not."

Booking Deadlock Ends in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—Terminating one of the longest holdouts in Minneapolis film circles in recent years, the "big five" buying and booking combine, Theatre Associates, and Paramount have come to an agreement on terms and conditions for a number of the company's pictures. None of the participants would discuss terms of the "settlement," although one spokesman for the exhibitor group declared "both sides gave a little ground."

Circuit members of the buying combine are Ben Friedman, Ben Berger, Eddie Ruben, Frank and Woempner and the Volk Brothers. Tom Burke is buyer and general manager of the combine.

New Ampro Projector

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—A new sound-on-film 16mm. projector, a portable, is announced by Ampro Corp., subsidiary of General Precision Equipment Corp. of New York.

Va. Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

under the New York decree, Levy told the convention at the Shoreham Hotel. Levy's contention was supported by Robert L. Wright, Government counsel, who also appeared before the group.

Discussing arbitration, Levy said that the inability of the court to impose it does not necessarily mean that it is illegal. He said that MPTOA will urge the industry to adopt a system of "voluntary arbitration" of internal disputes.

Wright could do little to dispel the confusion resulting from the New York court's final judgment in the industry anti-trust case. He admitted frequently during a question and answer period that the Government's point of view is not very well defined on various aspects of the decree. Bombarding Wright with questions were many Virginia exhibitors and several attorneys, including Levy and Robert T. Barton, Jr., counsel for the VMPTA.

Interpretation Criticized

Barton, who is also attorney for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, took exception to Wright's interpretation of the decree. Burton criticized the Government for constantly emphasizing the public's interest without regard for exhibitors' interests.

"The Sherman Anti-Trust Act should be rewritten if a fair display of its efficiency to dispel monopoly can be found in the chaos now being borne by the picture industry," Barton told Wright. He constantly reiterated that the decree leaves too much room for litigation, a point with which Wright agreed.

"If the thinking of the Government continues to be different from that of the exhibitor you're bound to destroy the little man as well as the big groups," Barton asserted.

In a plea for cooperation and trust on the part of all branches of the industry, Barton said that conferences between various elements could settle more things than the courts.

Morton Thalheimer, president of Neighborhood Theatres, pointed out to the group that every time the Government comes to the rescue of the exhibitor in court, the theatreman has come off worse than before. Wright, in the discussion, virtually admitted this was true.

"If ever a monopoly existed in the picture industry, it will be worse than before," Barton said by way of conclusion to Thalheimer's remarks.

All officers of the Virginia association were reelected. They are: William F. Crockett, president; H. E. Wood, secretary, and Sam Bendheim, Jr., treasurer.

Public relations at the industry's "grass roots" level was the keynote of the two-day meeting which closed today. Growing competition of 16mm. films also held the spotlight, with Leon Bamberger, RKO sales promotion manager, outlining the 16mm. program of his company.

Robert Coyne, executive secretary of the American Theatres Association, told the convention that efforts should be made on a local level to eliminate legislation and regulation of the industry.

Coyne pointed out that theatres are no more deserving of discriminatory regulation than are the press and radio. "Government expects a lot from the exhibitor, but has little to offer in return," he said.

Discussing the growing importance of 16mm. exhibition Bamberger said that RKO will not rent 16mm. pictures in competition with commercial houses. He urged exhibitors to enter the 16mm. field in situations where it is not advantageous to have a commercial 35mm. house.

Bamberger told the 200 exhibitors present that theatre attendance records must be boosted. "There is still too great a percentage of our population not seeing films," he said.

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"PREVIEW ROOM"

. . . will really SELL your picture.

Fully equipped for 35MM, 16MM, and Slide Projection.

Cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners served in this versatile room — setting a gay mood for a favorable reaction to your film.

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Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

UK Nationalization

(*Continued from page* 1)

yesterday on the *Queen Elizabeth* after a two-month survey of England and the Continent.

Other arrivals from England in motion picture circles included: S. Sanger, editor of British Movietone News; Dave Coplan, general manager of United Artists in Great Britain; Noel Coward, British actor, playwright and film producer, and Glynis Johns, British film actress under contract to Sir Alexander Korda.

Expanding on the announcement, reported from London last Wednesday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, that Warner Brothers will give financial, technical and artistic support to Associated British Picture Corp. for the production of six major films on the course of the next two years, Warner said that the American company will withdraw after setting its plans in motion. Films to be produced under the arrangement, which he emphasized would not be "quota pictures," are to be budgeted at $2,500,000 and up, Warner said. "We feel that money now should flow from America to England in increasing amounts," he added, stressing that he was speaking for Warner Brothers and not for the American industry.

Boyer Signs Contract

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Charles Boyer has signed a long-term contract with Enterprise for two films a year. First picture for the French star, who has been free-lancing for several years, will be an untitled original to be produced and directed by Lewis Milestone, another recent Enterprise signer. Production of the first film will begin in April.

Para. Raises Lineup

(*Continued from page* 1)

step had been taken as the result of requests for an increase in the number of releases made by the company's customers and theatre associates in order to alleviate the current shortage of product.

Reagan announced that during the first nine months of this year, Paramount will release at least as many and possibly more productions than in the whole of 1945-1946. He said that in the list will be product of the heaviest financial investment in the history of the company.

Barney Balaban, president of the company, who returned with Reagan, yesterday said that, "During the past 10 months Paramount has sent some of its most important executives to countries all over the world. The result of their surveys and conclusions in connection with the many problems that have developed in foreign countries since the end of hostilities was discussed in all of its phases (at last week's meetings) as it concerns Paramount production, sales and distribution throughout the world."

Balaban added that one of the purposes of the meetings was "to tie in the studio operation, headed by Henry Ginsberg, closer to Paramount's worldwide operations and to coordinate them with future production plans."

Ten completed pictures, the largest number ever to be shown at one time to sales executives in the history of the company, were viewed at the conference.

Allied Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

and Macinac Island, Mich.

As forecast, all officers of the national organization were reelected with the exception of H. H. Lowenstein, who was replaced as secretary by Trueman Rembusch. Officers are: Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel; Jack Kirsch, president; W. L. Ainsworth, treasurer, and P. J. Wood, recording secretary.

The executive committee for 1947 consists of: Kirsch and Myers, *ex officio* members; Martin G. Smith, M. A. Rosenberg, Sidney Samuelson, H. A. Cole and Nathan Yamins. Members of Allied's Caravan Committee are: Samuelson, Cole, Ainsworth and Rembusch.

Action Delayed

The executive committee was authorized to act later on Allied participation in the proposed motion picture forum to hear and attempt to adjudicate exhibitor-distributor grievances. Organization of the forum will be discussed at a national exhibitor meeting scheduled for March 10-11 in New York. Although Myers said that Allied had not received an official invitation to attend the New York meeting up to the weekend, he advised the board that he did not look favorably upon participation at this time.

Herman Levy, MPTOA counsel, said in Washington today that the invitation had been dispatched to Allied several days in advance of the meeting of the Allied board here, and it is understood that Levy called on Myers at his Washington office today to remind him of the invitation.

Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

along with most other features of the decree.

As a result of yesterday's ruling, competitive bidding will become effective on July 1, the date specified in the decree, unless a stay is granted by the Supreme Court following the receipt of one or more anticipated appeals from the New York Federal District Court's judgment. All defendants had sought to have bidding delayed until 90 days after a final decision of the high tribunal, and Columbia had requested a similar stay for single sales.

All motions for modification made by Columbia, Universal and United Artists were denied outright. These included U's request to be allowed to continue making franchise deals with independents and UA's plea to have the burden of proof of "reasonably necessary" clearance removed from the distributor.

Motion Denied

The judges denied the theatre-owning defendants' motion that they be permitted to expand present theatre holdings in order to protect investments or to enter a competitive field, if and when it could be shown to the satisfaction of the court that such acquisition would not unreasonably restrain competition.

Also denied was a request that the defendants as exhibitors be found guilty of "conspiring to receive discriminatory license privileges," rather than "conspiring in fixing minimum admission price, run, clearance and other license terms."

The modification motions and the court arguments upon them which ensued were reported in detail in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 10 and 23. Yesterday's "settle order" entered by the judges provided that Paragraph III (2) of its decree should be modified by adding: "The pooling agreements made by one or more defendants with others not parties to this action, which violate this provision, shall be dissolved prior to July 1, 1947"; also that Paragraph III (4) should be modified by adding: "Leases referred to herein between a defendant and independents, which violate this provision, shall be terminated prior to July 1, 1947."

MPA Surveys

(*Continued from page* 1)

work on three matters, none of which is complete: the number of theatres around the world; a study of U. S. houses, their number and type of operation, and a breakdown of film advertising expenditures.

Members of the committee are: Abe Schneider and Mort Wormser, Columbia; John M. Whittaker and Wilbur B. England, RKO Radio; W. Stuart McDonald, Warners; Charles M. Reagan and Paul Raibourn, Paramount; Murray Silverstone and Donald Henderson, 20th Century-Fox; Charles C. Moskowitz and Leo Handel, Loew's, and John J. O'Connor and Joseph Seidelman, Universal.

Israel on Film Accounts

Irving Israel has been named to handle film accounts for Colorchrome Corp., New York press book service.

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WORLD PREMIERE ENGAGEMENTS OF EAGLE-LION'S

IT'S A JOKE, SON!

SWEEP TEXAS IN CYCLONE OF BALLYHOO ROLLING UP RECORDS IN AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO, DALLAS, HOUSTON AND FORT WORTH!

Terrific radio promotions hit 50,000,000 listeners weekly... sensational publicity buildup... nationwide exploitation fanfare—set the rocketing box-office pace for Eagle-Lion's first star attraction!

FLASH!

More than 150 key dates already... and more pouring in!

JUMP ABOARD THE BANDWAGON! BOOK IT NOW!

EAGLE-LION FILMS

KENNY DELMAR as *SENATOR CLAGHORN* in **"IT'S A JOKE, SON!"**

with **UNA MERKEL** • **JUNE LOCKHART** • JIMMY CONLIN • DOUGLAS DUMBRILLE

'DAISY' the Dog • and introducing **KENNETH FARRELL**

Produced by Aubrey Schenck • Directed by Ben Stoloff • Original Screenplay by Robert Kent and Paul Gerard Smith • An Eagle-Lion Films Release

Another Bright Week At NY First-Runs With Few Exceptions

The week at the majority of New York's first-runs is another commercially bright one as those films which drew top business last week continued to maintain the pace. School students occupied only with regents examinations had extra free time while pleasant weather also was helpful.

"The Yearling" with a stage presentation at the Music Hall brought in $87,500 Thursday through Sunday; on the basis of this the second week, ending tomorrow night, is good for an exciting $144,000, which tops the initial week's figure by $4,000.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is clearly the best money-maker the Astor has had in years. Business for the 11th week figures to reach $56,000, which is very close to the previous week; as a matter of fact the Astor's income has varied very little since the picture opened.

"Its a Wonderful Life" also figures to top last week's gross with $27,000 in this, the seventh week, at the Globe; the sixth week brought $25,000. "Sinbad the Sailor," at the Palace, also is up in the important money bracket with $50,000 seen for the second week; Saturday's gross of $10,000 represents a new single day's record at the house.

'13 Rue' Stays Strong

"13 Rue Madeleine", with Gracie Fields the chief vaudeville attraction at the Roxy, is headed for a second week's total of $95,000, which is only $2,000 under last week, very strong sustained business, and "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim" will follow on Feb. 11, on Tuesday instead of the usual Wednesday opening so as not to bring the picture in on a holiday.

"Lady in the Lake" and Tex Beneke's orchestra, at the Capitol, are likewise luring an abundance of cash, estimated at $92,000 for a second week; the first week's gross was $94,600. "The Man I Love", with Charlie Barnet's orchestra, at the Strand, is doing mighty well with $53,000 anticipated for a second week. At the Hollywood, "Humoresque" is losing no ground with a hefty $23,500 apparent for the sixth week.

Taking $30,000 in the last five days at the Criterion, "Dead Reckoning" should wind up its second week with a substantial $40,000; it will continue. "Tower of London," Rialto re-issue, is well above average with $10,000 for a second week.

"Swell Guy" is performing nicely at the Winter Garden with $29,000 estimated for the second week. No date has been set for "I'll Be Yours," which is next. "Stairway to Heaven" is holding up strongly at the Park which looks for another $16,000 gross in the sixth week.

"California," slipping a little but still showing a nice profit, is good for $33,000 in a third week at the Rivoli. "The Perfect Marriage" is somewhat off in its third week at the Paramount where it has the support of the Mills Brothers on stage; gross: $55,000. "Easy Come, Easy Go" will open tomorrow with the Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald topping the "in person" show.

"Henry V" has yet to show signs of business weariness at the John Golden where it took in $12,000 in the 23rd week of its moveover run. "Wake Up and Dream" is slumbering at the Victoria with $12,000 slated for the second week. The film will be followed Friday by "Bedelia." At the Gotham, "Her Sister's Secret" is fair with an expected $8,200 for a second week; the picture will continue three extra days with "San Quentin" to follow on Saturday.

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Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CINCINNATI

Turnstiles are clicking to outstanding returns for three releases in the current line-up, while the majority of other product is registering average or better. The weather is cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 4-7:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) — RKO CAPITOL (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.) and DRIFTIN' RIVER (PRC)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,800. (Average: $1,600)

STRANGE AFFAIR (Col. reissue) and ESCAPE IN THE FOG (Col. reissue)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,200. (Average: $1,100)

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) — RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Personal appearance of Lawrence Tierney on opening day. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $8,000)

I'LL BE YOURS (U) — KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,500)

STAGECOACH (UA reissue) and THE KANSAN (UA reissue) — RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) —RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,000)

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST (Para.)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover after two weeks at the Palace. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,000)

BALTIMORE

A new list of attractions has lifted grosses in most instances. Weather is perfect, and nothing is in town to offer serious competition. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 6:

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA) — CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c and 65c) weekends) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000)

I'LL BE YOURS (U) — KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) — NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $17,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO-Radio)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c - 44c - 60c - 70c) With stage show. 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $18,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO-Radio) — TOWN (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)

OMAHA

Heavy snow and cold weather has cut grosses here. Only one theatre is doing better than average business. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5-6:

IF I HAD MY WAY (U reissue) and SHADOW OF A DOUBT (U reissue)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,600)

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) and SHADOW OF A WOMAN (WB)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,300. (Average: $9,400)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,100. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) and SO DARK THE NIGHT (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $6,800)

TORONTO

More snow and traffic trouble formed a problem during a week when one of the six first-run theatres had a new picture. Professional hockey is going strong, while added opposition is found in a five-day engagement of the Ice Follies. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5-7:

STELLA DALLAS (Film Classics)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,700)

NOBODY LIVES FOREVER (WB)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $14,300)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $13,300)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 5th week. Gross: $13,100. (Average: $14,600)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,400. (Average: $11,400)

STELLA DALLAS (Film Classics)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $6,800)

$43,900 for 'Duel'

"Duel in the Sun" in the fifth week of its Los Angeles engagement at the Fairfax and Vogue Theatres grossed $43,900, beating the fourth week's gross by about $2,000, the Vanguard office reported here yesterday. For the five weeks at the Vogue, three at the Fairfax and two ta the Egyptian, the total take was $216,773, outdrawing Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" by approximately 31 per cent, the company said.

Clem Pope, 52

CLEVELAND, Feb. 3.—Clem Pope, 52, born in Muskogee, Okla., who came to Cleveland in 1938 as publicity man for RKO Theatres and was RKO theatre district manager from 1940 to 1945, died Saturday at Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he had been ill one week.

For the past year he was associated with the Mitchell, McCandless and Claus advertising firm. Surviving are his wife, Margaret, two sons, Clem, Jr., and Richard, a brother and two sisters.

Britannica Films Paid Chicago U. Million in 4 Years

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—The University of Chicago has a "direct and active" interest in Encyclopedia Britannica Films and received payments in excess of $1,000,000 from it in the first four years of the University's connection with the companies, according to a statement issued by Britannica commenting on a story published by MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. [illegible] which reported ownership of the common stock of Britannica by Assistant Secretary of State William Benton.

"The University participates in the income of the Britannica through dividends on the preferred stock and through royalties paid for the advice of its professors," the statement explains.

Concerning Benton's ownership of the common stock, the statement says: "When it appeared that the University would not accept the gift of the Britannica without the investment of working capital, the required funds were made available by William Benton. In return, Mr. Benton received the common stock of Britannica.

Escrow Arrangements

"Through escrow arrangements entered into at the time of the transfer of the stock to Mr. Benton, the University may resume control of this stock at Mr. Benton's death," the statement said. "The University owns the preferred stock."

The statement says that ownership of Encyclopedia Britannica was transferred to the University by Sears-Roebuck in Jan., 1943, and that a short time later Britannica acquired Erpi Films, which was renamed Encyclopedia Britannica Films, and became a subsidiary corporation of Britannica. In April, 1944, Eastman Kodak gave its library of educational films to the University, which distributes them through Encyclopedia Britannica Films.

"The University's interest in the Britannica enterprises," the statement continues, "is direct and active. Robert M. Hutchins, chancellor of the University, is a director of both Britannica and the Films Company, and chairman of their executive committees. He is also chairman of the board of editors of Britannica. John Stuart and Paul G. Hoffman are trustees of the University, and also directors of both Britannica and of the Films Company.

Morros Signs Crosby For 1949 Picture

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Producer Boris Morros has signed Bing Crosby to make an independent picture in 1949, he announced here today before leaving for New York.

Morros said also that his "Carnegie Hall" is slated to open at the Chicago Civic Opera House in April under a two-a-day policy at advanced prices.

Paul Huldschinsky, 57

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Feb. 3.—Paul Oscar Huldschinsky, designer of motion-picture sets, who won the first Academy award ever presented for supremacy in that phase of the film industry, died at his home in Santa Monica. He was 57.

Urges Mexicans to Support US Strike

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Following an address to strikers at a Conference of Studio Unions mass meeting last night, Vincente Lombardo Toledano, general secretary of the Confederation of Latin American Workers, telegraphed his Mexico City headquarters urging that all Mexican theatres be struck for one day on the earliest possible Sunday as an expression of sympathy for striking Hollywood workers. Toledano said that he would later try to get a similar one-day closing throughout Latin Amerca if the strike is not settled shortly.

CSU President Herbert K. Sorrell told the meeting that the strike may be settled suddenly in the near future, but he declined to elaborate on that statement.

U. S. Film Funds

(*Continued from page* 1)

which include film production and distribution, are sure to be discontinued by the new Congress with the result that virtually all industry-Government relations in the motion picture field will come to a gradual end.

Start 'Jenny' Feb. 15

Feature production at the new RKO Pathe studios, here, will be inaugurated on Feb. 15 when David O. Selznick's "Portrait of Jenny" starts shooting, Frederic Ullman, Jr., president of RKO Pathe, announced. The agreement also gave Selznick an option for three more feature pictures in the studio during 1947 and 1948.

Brodie Acquitted of Indecent Film Charge

Justices John Flood, William Farrell and Nathan D. Perlman, in Special Sessions Court here yesterday, acquitted Benjamin Brodie, former owner of New York's Miami Theatre, of showing an indecent picture. They said the prosecution had failed to prove a case against Brodie.

Last June the Theatre Operating Corp., which ran the house, was fined $500 following the showing of "Guilty Parents."

After yesterday's acquittal, Chief Justice George B. De Luca said there was no ground for a statement by Justice Matthew J. Troy that the case had "all the earmarks of a nice fix." This criticism had come when Jacob Leff, attorney for Brodie, declared the New York City license department had promised to restore the license of the Miami following the corporation's guilty plea.

Theatre Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

sound business it must have adequate FCC facilities and that those proposed are short of requirements. Thus SMPE will ask the same parity of rights for frequency allocations for theatre television as for television broadcasting.

Variety Foundling Aid

CINCINNATI, Feb. 3.—Following through on a plan adopted a few weeks ago, the Cincinnati Variety Club, Tent No. 3, has placed six children, wards of local institutions, in foster homes, and is assuming responsibility for their care.

'Yearling' a Special

(*Continued from page* 1)

generally in March, it was stated, with bids to be taken as outlined in the consent decree. Currently in its second week at New York's Radio City Music Hall and in its sixth week at the Carthay Circle in Los Angeles on a two-a-day reserved seat policy, the picture is scheduled to open at B. & K.'s Loop theatre, the State Lake, late this month.

Plans are being made for the Midwestern premiere, it was stated, with B. and K. officials William K. Hollander and James Savage cooperating with William R. Ferguson, exploitation director for M-G-M, and his Midwestern field staff consisting of William G. Bishop, William Green and Warren Slee, of Chicago; J. B. Watson, Cincinnati; Louis Orlove, Milwaukee, and Harold Marshall, Indiana.

Among the local plans are the appearance of Claude Jarman, Jr., the Jody of the picture. Jarman, accompanied by his father, and Frank Liggett, will arrive in New York tomorrow. After 10 days in the East the contingent will head for Chicago. Ted Morris of M-G-M's studio publicity staff, is now in New York working with Howard Dietz, vice-president and director of advertising, publicity and exploitation; Ferguson and Herbert Crooker, publicity manager, on the New York and Chicago visits of Jarman.

Also to be released generally in March, it was stated by M-G-M executives, will be "The Beginning or the End." Special plans for marketing this picture are in work and will be announced shortly.

Industry to Gain By Army Increases

Washington, Feb. 3.—Admission prices at Army post theatres on the European Continent have been raised from 15 to 20 cents for adults and from 10 to 15 cents for children, according to Fred Bund, chief of the Army Motion Picture Service, who stated that the film industry will reap greater percentage profits as a result of the admission price increase.

25% Wage Increases To N. Y. Cartoonists

Famous Studios, producers of the "Little Lulu," "Popeye" and other cartoons, yesterday signed a one-year contract with the Screen Cartoonists Guild here providing for a general wage increase of 25 per cent.

Sam Buchwald and the law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim represented the company in negotiations. Pepe Ruiz and attorney Marvin Cristenfeld negotiated for the union. Thomas S. Dougherty of the U. S. Conciliation Service participated.

Loewe to Goldwyn

J. Winston Loewe, former Warner manager in Oklahoma City and Dallas, has joined Samuel Goldwyn Productions as sales representative covering the South and several Mid-West situations, the Goldwyn office here announces.

FILM CLASSICS

Good Pictures like Good Books NEVER Grow Old!

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NORTH STAR • THE WESTERNER • THIEF OF BAGDAD • LYDIA • THAT HAMILTON WOMAN
THE JUNGLE BOOK • RETURN OF THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL • SCARLET PIMPERNEL • FOUR FEATHERS

THIS ADVERTISEMENT PAYS YOU

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 25 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1947 TEN CENTS

Names . . . *in Today's News*

DONALD M. NELSON, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, Hollywood, has been elected a director-at-large of the Motion Picture Export Association, it was announced yesterday. The international distribution managers of MPEA's eight member companies were all re-elected directors, as was Eric Johnston, who continues as a director-at-large.

With the election of Nelson, the independent producers associated with MPEA's member companies now have direct representation on MPEA's board.

Also the following MPEA officers were re-elected: Johnston, president; Francis S. Harmon, vice-president; Irving A. Maas, vice-president and general manager; Gordon E. Youngman, secretary; Herbert J. Erlanger, assistant secretary; George Borthwick, treasurer; Frederick W. DuVall and William F. Laffan, assistant treasurers.

Bowles Is Assistant to Para.'s George Smith

John Bowles has been appointed assistant to George A. Smith, Paramount's Western division sales manager, by Charles M. Reagan, distribution vice-president. Bowles will have headquarters in Los Angeles. He joined Paramount in 1943 as a salesman in San Francisco.

Reagan has also named Don Foster booking manager in Salt Lake City, replacing John Swenson, resigned; Harry Nicholson has been transferred from the Oklahoma staff to Dallas, and is succeeded by Ed Chumley, with Hubert Buchanan moving into Chumley's former post; Don Hicks is succeeded in Kansas City by Ward Pennington, after having been named manager in Omaha.

Film Dividends Help Double General Total

Washington, Feb. 4. — General industry dividend payments for the quarter ending in Nov., 1946, climbed to $12,147,000, compared with $5,880,000 for the same period in 1945, according to the Commerce Department which pointed out that November is usually a slow month for such payments.

The overall 51 per cent increase during the quarter was attributed in part to several large dividend payments made by motion picture companies.

Says Abandonment Of Reciprocal Trade Is a Threat

The fight both for and against continuation of the Washington Administration's policy of international trade reciprocity is a source of alarm to the Motion Picture Association, which feels that abandonment of the program will result in new and more rigid restrictions against U. S. films abroad, according to an MPA official here.

Eric A. Johnston, MPA president, will appear before the Inter-Departmental Committee on Reciprocity at a hearing in Washington tomorrow to point out the trade problems which would be encountered in the principal markets of the world, not only for the film business but for all industries, in the event the program is not sustained.

(*Continued on page* 10)

Final Draft Ready For Foundation

Corporate structure of the Motion Picture Foundation came a step closer to reality yesterday with completion of the final drafts of the by-laws and certificate of incorporation and the sending of those papers to a steering committee headed by Barney Balaban, as chairman, for final approval, after which they will be filed in the District of Columbia.

Dual purpose of the foundation—to help the needy, sick and destitute in all branches of the film industry and

(*Continued on page* 10)

MGM Is Auctioning In 20 Situations

Chicago, Feb. 4. — M-G-M now is auctioning films in 20 situations throughout the U. S., and the auction method, as advanced in the New York Federal Court decree, is gradually being adopted in additional situations, William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of sales, revealed here today at the close of the M-G-M sales meeting.

Conditions Cancel M-G-M Field Trips

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—Because of unsettled conditions revolving around the consent decree and a crop of new pictures to be made available for marketing within the next few weeks, M-G-M has canceled the proposed five-city trip of 14 members of its field force, it was announced here today as the two-day M-G-M sales sessions at the Drake Hotel came to a close.

M-G-M will hold four or five regional meetings beginning about April in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh and New Orleans to discuss sales procedure under the New York consent decree, as well as selling plans for "The Yearling," William F. Rodgers, vice-president in charge of sales, disclosed today following the conclusion of the two-day sales meeting.

It is felt that it is more propitious at this time to have the men who were slated for the tour concentrate on new selling rather than have them

(*Continued on page* 10)

'Smash-Up'

[*Walter Wanger-Universal*]

SUSAN HAYWARD'S light shines firm and bright in a strong, dramatic attraction about a female dipsomaniac who finally wins her fight against drunkenness and regains her husband, child and home in the kind of finish that bulk audiences would want. "Smash-Up," original by Dorothy Parker and Frank Cavett, with a screenplay by John Howard Lawson, is what is known in the trade as a woman's picture. The type is persistently good for substantial grosses, and so is this one.

The attraction, variously described in conversation around New York as a "female Lost Weekend," tells the story of a girl who establishes herself as a "blues" singer in plushy nightclubs, marries Lee Bowman, becomes responsible—initially anyway— for his nationwide rise to airwave fame as a crooner and then finds herself pushed aside into little traveled alcoves as an adoring public heaps adulation and dollars on her husband's head.

Bowman takes it big, but he also takes it somewhat stupidly. He acknowledges he is aware of what is happening, but does little about it until Miss Hayward's careless cigarette endangers their young daughter whom the mother rescues but with serious burns for her effort. By this time, Bowman belatedly is made to realize how much of the estrangement and the neglect

(*Continued on page* 12)

See Filing of All Appeals By March 1st

Defense, Like U. S., Will Not Risk April 'Deadline'

Although, in the opinion of a number of attorneys connected with the industry anti-trust suit, the U. S. Supreme Court probably would accept appeals of the case as late as April 4, which is 60 days after the "settle order" entered on Monday by the Federal District Court here, indications yesterday were that all defendant companies planning to file notice of appeal will do so on or before March 1, which is 60 days after Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright handed down their final decree.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE

(*Continued on page* 10)

Winston Churchill Hits At Film Imports

LONDON, Feb. 4.—In light of the rapid exhaustion of last summer's $3,750,000,000 loan to Britain, Winston Churchill suggested in the House of Commons today that it is "essential for film industry and all other expenditures to be viewed with the severest restraint" and, further, that the loan "be used to purchase appli-

(*Continued on page* 12)

Pascal, Shaw Plays To Pickford-Cowan

Gabriel Pascal, British producer, has signed an agreement with the Mary Pickford-Lester Cowan independent company, Artists Alliance, to film George Bernard Shaw's plays in Hollywood rather than England. The deal

(*Continued on page* 12)

In This Issue

In addition to the review of "Smash-Up" which begins on this page, this issue carries a review of "The Brasher Doubloon"—on page 12. All of page 8 is devoted to photographs of the 1946 *Motion Picture Daily-Fame* radio poll winners, taken at the time they were presented with scrolls.

May Extend Theatre Boycott Nationally

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—A decision whether to extend nationally the volunteer ban on theatre attendance for one month, instituted locally for February by members of Catholic high school sodalities, wil be made next Sunday when sodality leaders meet in Saint Agnes High School on the question, according to Rev. Charles E. Leahy, moderator.

The local ban binding volunteers to abstain from attending all theatres this month in protest against what is regarded as a tendency toward relaxation of moral standards in films was first considered after Howard Hughes' "Outlaw" opened here and it was decided upon after David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" was made the subject of a directive from Archbishop Cantwell, according to Father Leahy.

"I cannot say what course the young people may take", Rev. Leahy declared, but they are deeply concerned about recent trends in pictures and many favor inviting national cooperation, saying they fear that if present examples of undesirable screen material are gotten away with, Hollywood producers may turn out more of the same.

Schoenstadt Circuit Hearings on Feb. 18

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—Hearing of evidence on the Schoenstadt Circuit's $675,000 triple damage anti-trust suit on behalf of its Picadilly Theatre has now been set to start here on Feb. 18. Charles A. McDonald, a former local circuit court judge, who was recently appointed special master in chancery to hear evidence, will preside.

After all evidence has been completed McDonald will submit his report and recommendations to Judge Philip L. Sullivan of U. S. District Court.

Chaplin Will Produce Two Features Yearly

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Charles Chaplin's original tramp comedy characterization will be resumed in one or another of his future films, his studio says in disclosing that the comedian plans to produce two features annually beginning this fall after his return from a European visit, which he will make after the release of "Monsieur Verdoux." The first film after "Verdoux," untitled, is described as "adult satire."

Has Good Word for 'Abie's Irish Rose'

Rabbi Max Nussbaum of Los Angeles has urged members of his congregation to see "Abie's Irish Rose" if only to confirm his opinion that it realizes its intention of promoting racial tolerance, United Artists reported here yesterday. In his remarks, Dr. Nussbaum was quoted as paying tribute to the film's producer, Bing Crosby, for his record of service to Jewish and minority causes.

Personal Mention

ERIC A. JOHNSTON, president of the Motion Picture Association, and KENNETH CLARK, director of public relations, will return to Washington today from New York.

•

ROBERT TAYLOR, BARBARA STANWYCK, OLIVER HARDY, MR. and MRS. STANLEY LAUREL, and British actor-producer IVOR NOVELLO were among the passengers on the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth* when the steamer left New York for England yesterday.

•

KATE SMITH will be presented with the "Share Your Knowledge" award of the Philadelphia Club of Printing House Craftsmen in Philadelphia on Saturday.

•

C. GILLETTO, JR., manager of the Savoy Theatre, Bronx, and MRS. GILLETTO, are parents of twin girls, born recently at Manhattan General Hospital, here.

•

JOE ROBERTS Eastern publicity manager of Vanguard is celebrating his birthday today.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M reprints-importations chief, has returned to New York from the Mid-West.

•

JOSEPH PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, is visiting Canada from New York.

•

RALPH WHEELWRIGHT, of M-G-M's studio publicity department, will leave Washington for the Coast today.

•

CHARLES K. STERN, Loew's assistant treasurer, will leave New York for Hollywood on Feb. 13.

•

E. M. RUFF, Paramount's Albany, N. Y., manager, is recovering following an operation.

•

ARTHUR HORN, M-G-M salesman at Albany, N. Y., is recuperating after a recent operation.

•

ABRAM H. VAN DEUSEN, RKO Radio office manager, Albany, N. Y., underwent an operation recently.

•

VERA CASPARY, film writer and author, is due to arrive here by plane from the Coast today.

•

MOREY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram general sales manager, was in New Haven yesterday.

•

HARRY K. MCWILLIAMS, Columbia exploitation manager, is on a trip to Toronto.

•

ARTHUR DENT, British film executive, will sail from New York for England on the *America* tomorrow.

•

BENO SLESIN, United Artists manager in Colombia, has arrived in New York from Bogota.

•

LEON BAMBERGER, RKO Radio exhibitor relations chief, has returned to New York from Washington.

•

CLAUDE JARMAN, JR., child actor, is in New York from Hollywood.

W. C. GEHRING, 20th Century-Fox Central sales manager, who has been at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., for the past week, will undergo an ulcer operation on Friday.

•

LOUIS ROSENBAUM, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, theatre executive, has contributed $25,000 to help construct and equip a modern library for Florence and Lauderdale counties.

•

IRVING ACKERMAN, owner of the Nob Hill and Stage Door theatres, San Francisco, has been elected a member of the board of directors of the California Theatres Association.

•

ALFRED CROWN, Samuel Goldwyn Productions' foreign sales manager, has returned to New York from Mexico.

•

MORT SPRING, vice-president of Loew's International, has gone to the Coast for studio talks and a vacation. He will return in a month.

•

RUSH KING, former manager of the Norwood, Birmingham, is the new manager of Wilby's Booth Theatre, Knoxville.

•

OSCAR A. MORGAN, Paramount short subject sales head, left New York for Pittsburgh yesterday.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's theatre executive, and MRS. DOOB have left New York for the Coast.

•

JACOB WILK, Eastern production manager for Warners, is in Hollywood from New York.

•

FRANK J. DURKEE, owner of the Durkee Circuit, Baltimore, is spending several weeks' vacation in Florida.

•

JOSEPH YOUNG, Universal sales representative in Baltimore, has left for a Florida vacation.

•

H. D. HEARN, of Exhibitor's Service, Charlotte, N. C., is vacationing in Florida.

•

HARRY ROSENQUEST, of the Warner Circuit film buying staff, is in Chicago from New York.

•

NAT D. FELLMAN, Warner Theatres executive, is in Cleveland from New York.

•

JOHN J. GLYNN, vice-president of Warner-International, has left New York for Colombia, S. A.

•

DON HASSLER, Astor Pictures' special representative, is in Wilmington, N. C., from Atlanta.

•

LOUIS J. KAUFMAN, Warner Theatres executive, is visiting Cleveland and Pittsburgh from New York.

•

CHRISTY WILBERT, 20th-Fox advertising manager, returned to New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

DONNA REED is in New York from Hollywood.

Newsreel Parade

EMBARKATION of England's royal family for South Africa, storms in the Midwest and South, a big fire in Tacoma, the fall of a Nazi "temple" and the Melrose games are highlighted in circuit newsreels. Full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 46—En[illegible]'s royal family leaves on South Africa[illegible]r. Nature on rampage: blizzard in Milwa[illegible]kee, tornado in the South. President Truman's cabinet poses for newsreels. Bombay multitudes hold mass prayer for world peace. Sports: Melrose track meet; skating championship at St. Paul. Canadian "muscle girl."

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 244—British royal family off to South Africa. Record blizzard hits Midwest, leaving Milwaukee marooned. Nazi "temple" goes kaput. Cabinet meets. New ambassador to Great Britain. Melrose track thriller. Glass backstop. Boxing bambino. Skates champs, St. Paul.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 47—Winter wallops the Midwest; Milwaukee digs out. Capital headlines: Ambassador to Britain assumes duties; ex-speaker gets new car. Old-age pensioners hit jackpot. Royal family leaves for South Africa. Melrose games track meet.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 49—Royal family off to South Africa. Winter carnival in St. Paul. Blast Nazi "temples of honor." Prince Adolf's body to Sweden. $2,000,000 fire in Tacoma mills. Dodd wins Melrose meet.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 10—King, queen and princesses leave England for South Africa. Nature on rampage; blizzard in Milwaukee, tornado in the Southland. President Truman meets with advisers. $2,000,000 blaze destroys Tacoma flour mill. Members of Slumbering Lodge search for Mr. Groundhog in Philadelphia. Model plane show at Miami.

All Rose Films to Be Made in U. S.

David Rose will make all of his proposed independent productions in this country, he declared here yesterday prior to his departure last night on the SS. *Queen Elizabeth* for England, where he will discontinue previous arrangements with the J. Arthur Rank interests to have the filming of one per year done on British soil.

The change of plans, Rose indicated, was brought about at least in part by his disagreement with James Mason, British actor who was to have appeared in two films annually for his new company. The producer still hopes, however, that he and Mason may eventually become associated, pointing out that he has a contract calling for the player to make two pictures per year for him and to accept other commitments only through a "loan-out" arrangement. This matter now is being litigated.

Rose will leave England for America on the *Queen Elizabeth* on Feb. 27 and by the time he arrives here expects that all details for his alignment with an unnamed independent producer will have been ironed out.

Although dropping his British production plans, Rose hopes to be able to make arrangements while abroad for distribution in that country.

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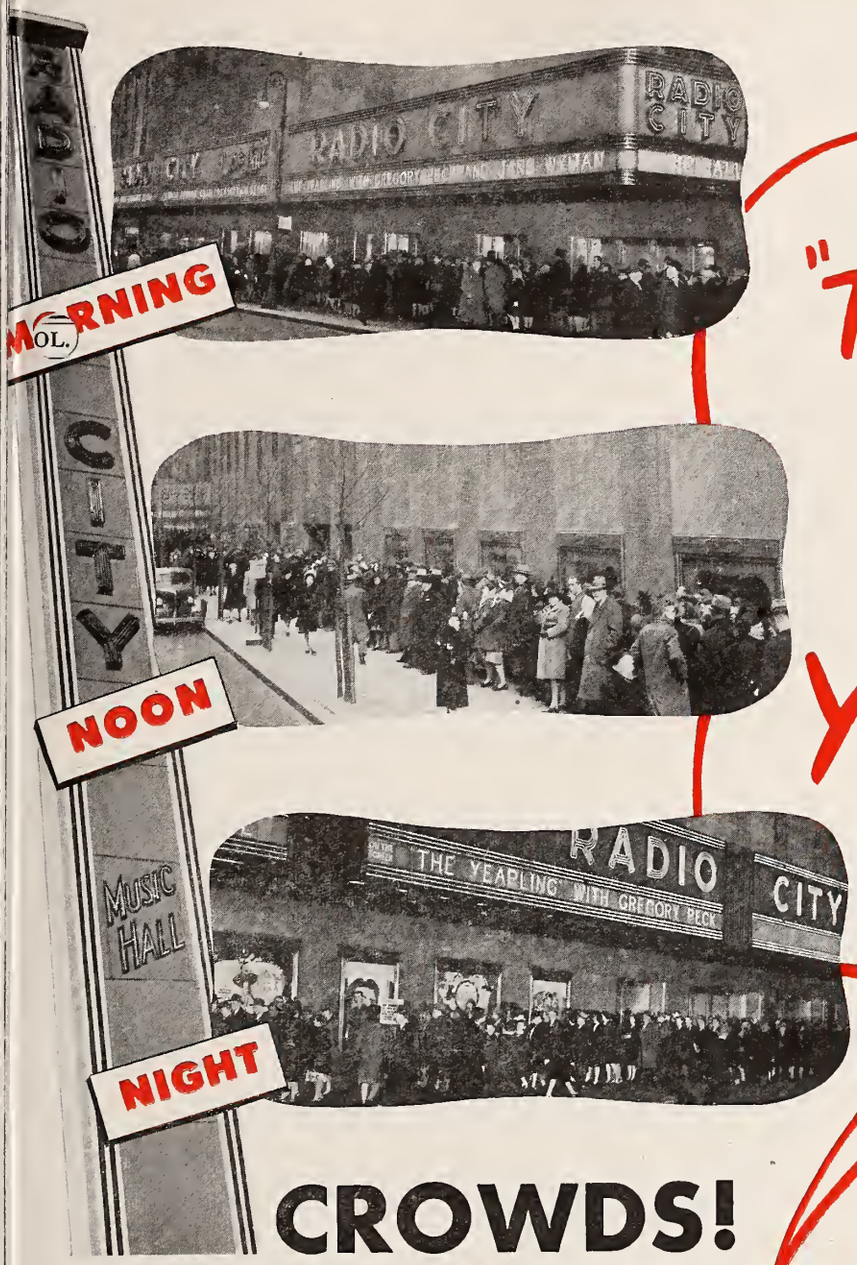

"THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE YEARLING!"

—say N. Y. Critics

CROWDS!

"Long lines sure to continue for many weeks . . . Metro holds the Music Hall records which should be surpassed . . . one of the finest pictures of all time." —**QUINN, Mirror**

"May very well come in as winner of the Academy Award . . . something not to be missed." —**MISHKIN, Telegraph**

"One of the year's smash hits . . . stands as one of Hollywood's most impressive achievements." —**PELSWICK, Journal-American**

"Hit the bullseye of popular taste." —**WINSTEN, Post**

ACCLAIM!

"Irresistible appeal . . . among the fine achievements of the cinema." —**BARNES, Herald Tribune**

"A movie that will be remembered and loved for years . . . one of the best pictures I've ever seen." —**CREELMAN, Sun**

"We've got to hand it to Metro . . . wealth of satisfaction few pictures ever attain." —**CROWTHER, Times**

"Going to be a favorite with moviegoers for many weeks to come . . . a grand picture." —**COHN, Brooklyn Eagle**

★

M-G-M presents "THE YEARLING" starring GREGORY PECK • JANE WYMAN • A CLARENCE BROWN PRODUCTION • Claude Jarman, Jr. as "Jody" • Clem Bevans • Margaret Wycherly • Forrest Tucker • Photographed in Technicolor • Screen Play by Paul Osborn • Based on the Pulitzer Prize Novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings • Directed by Clarence Brown • Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Walt Disney's "Song of the South" was the leader among new pictures in a week during which advanced-admission shows and holdovers predominated at first-run theatres. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Col.) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $8,900)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $16,500)
THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,500)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $19,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000)
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Col.) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—ELREY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $7,700)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $30,000.
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $7,600)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $12,700)
SWELL GUY (U)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $8,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $23,700)
SWELL GUY (U)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $11,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $26,200)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $24,600)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $10,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,100)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,800)
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Col.) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $23,100)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $24,100)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $15,400)
SWELL GUY (U)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $9,300)
SWELL GUY (U)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $8,000)
SWELL GUY (U)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $15,100)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $16,150. (Average: $8,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $21,600)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,100)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $15,700)

CHICAGO

Despite unusually cold weather, a number of films in the Loop are doing above average business, with "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "The Jolson Story" and "The Best Years of Our Lives" setting the pace. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5-6:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) 6th week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $12,000)
TWO SMART PEOPLE (M-G-M)—CHICAGO (3,900) (65c-95c). With stage show starring Diana Lynn. Gross: $52,000. (Average: $60,000)
THE VERDICT (WB)—GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,000)
IT'E A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (65c-95c) 6th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c). On stage: Clyde McCoy's orchestra. Gross: $60,000. (Average: $45,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and GENIUS AT WORK (RKO Radio)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $24,000)
CAPTAIN CAUTION (Favorite Films) and CAPTAIN FURY (Favorite Films)—RIALTO (1,687) (55c-65c-95c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 6th week. Gross: $39,000. (Average: $29,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 7th week. Gross: $47,000. (Average: $20,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

Theatre patrons bucked cold weather to push Loop business to a better-than-average level. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 6:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—CENTURY (1,600) (50c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,500)
WILD BILL HICKOK RIDES (WB reissue)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,400)
STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE (20th-Fox reissue)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,000)
WHITE TIE AND TAILS (U)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-85c) 7 days. On stage: Bob Crosby and orchestra. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $11,500)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,500)

PHILADELPHIA

The pace here is being set by "13 Rue Madeleine." Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 4-6:

TEMPTATION (U)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000)
BOOMTOWN (M-G-M reissue)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $9,200. (Average: $7,250)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,200. (Average: $22,800)
RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Ralph Slater. Gross: $19,700. (Average, for 7 days: $22,800)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $42,000. (Average: $28,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $26,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $7,800)
RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,500)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $27,500. (Average: $28,300)
HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $32,700. (Average: $24,900)
THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $11,200)

ST. LOUIS

"The Shocking Mss Pilgrim" and "13 Rue Madeleine" are holding up well, along with several other films, although the temperature has dipped toward zero. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

SUSPICION (RKO Radio reissue) and LOVE AFFAIR (RKO Radio reissue)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $18,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $20,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,500)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

Grosses have been only moderate here this week. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 6:

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and INVISIBLE INFORMER (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $32,000)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) 7 days. With vaudeville. Gross: $29,500. (Average: $32,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and THE RAIDER (English)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $23,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—STATE (2,135) 7 days, 2nd week, on move-over. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $14,000)
THE CHASE (UA) and 'NEATH CANADIAN SKIES (Guild)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,300. (Average: $14,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $27,000)

ATLANTA

Business has been only fair, the weather mild. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

TILL THE END OF TIME (RKO Radio)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c) Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,000)
WHITE TIE AND TAILS (U)—PARAMOUNT (2,477) (55c-60c) Gross: $8,100. (Average: $8,200)
EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN (U reissue)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,600)
IT ALL CAME TRUE (WB reissue) and TRAFFIC IN CRIME (Rep.)—CAPITAL (2,446) (44c-50c) Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,200)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (50c-60) 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $15,000)

DENVER

Severe cold weather hurt theatres the first of the week, but business snapped back over the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,500)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,500)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) and BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE VERDICT (WB) and RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL (Mono.)—PARA-

(Continued on page 5)

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DON'T SIGN until you first learn about Filmack's New Prevue Trailer Service—ready NOW! Write, wire, phone Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill.

PCCITO Advances Decree 'Policing'

Los Angeles, Feb. 4.—The four territorial organizations comprising the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners are proceeding with plans for appointing committees to "enforce and police" the New York Federal Court decree when it becomes effective, as proposed by the trustees of the organization at their recent meeting in Portland.

The primary function of the committees, according to Robert Poole, PCCITO executive secretary, will be to detect inequities, if any, in the application of the decree and to bring them to the attention of the proper parties for rectification. The committees also will concern themselves with "policing" compliance with the decree.

Poole said designation of the committees and their puropses do not constitute an innovation or departure from precedent, recalling that PCCITO followed the same procedure with respect to the defunct industry consent decree. Acting then on a resolution passed at its convention here in 1941, similar committees were appointed and proved of "valuable service" to exhibitors and distributors alike on the West Coast in expediting necessary adjustments to new trade practices by speedily uncovering and bringing to attention inequities which otherwise might have continued in effect much longer with increasingly detrimental effect, Poole said.

"This is essentially a routine step," he said, "although an important function of the committees is substantially to observe and report, so that the changes ordered by the court can be implemented with a minimum of confusion and delay in order to test the new practices as rapidly as possible."

"With new industry machinery being set up, this is the time for all exhibitors everywhere to work in unison with their exhibitor organizations," Poole added.

Electrical Workers Withdraw from CSU

Hollywood, Feb. 4. — International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 40, one of the strongest locals on strike, withdrew from CSU membership, following the suspension of local officers by the international, but it declared that its members would continue to observe picket lines.

IATSE President Walsh arrived over the weekend from Seattle, reportedly to iron out final details of contracts for two IATSE locals not yet negotiated.

UK Business Good

Dave Coplan, UA's general manager in Britain, who has arrived from London for a home office visit, reported that business there is "very good," having experienced only a five to six per cent decline from wartime peaks. He said that tentative negotiations for production of UA pictures in England will depend upon discussions with Gradwell Sears, UA vice-president in charge of distribution.

Lust's 10th Ready

Washington, Feb. 4. — The 10th addition to Sidney Lust's growing list of suburban theatres will open on Thursday. It is the new Cheverly Theatre on Defense Highway, near Bladensburg, Md.

Key City Grosses

(*Continued from page 4*)

MOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,000)

PITTSBURGH

Despite a snow storm that reached blizzard proportions, all downtown theatres did average business or better. "Till the Clouds Roll By" is in the lead. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 6:

WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average, for 7 days: $9,700)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $11,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $25,00)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Penn. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 5th week, on moveover from Harris. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,200)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000)

NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio) — WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)

KANSAS CITY

Most grosses are running below average. The temperature has been generally low, but little snow has fallen as yet. A good many musical and athletic events offer competition. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 4-6:

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U) — ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $1,600. (Average: $1,750)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB) and SHADOW OF A WOMAN (WB)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000)

SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business has been spotty, but two big grosses will pull up the general average. The weather has been extremely variable. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 4-5:

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,800)

SWELL GUY (U)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $14,000)

KING'S ROW (WB reissue) and WILD BILL HICKOK (WB reissue) — LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,700)

SALT LAKE CITY

"The Jolson Story," in its seventh week at the Studio Theatre, has established a new record for holdovers here. Most houses are doing better than average despite much snow and slush. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 6:

HUMORESQUE (WB)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,600)

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,900. (Average: $13,500)

DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND (UA) and BRINGING UP FATHER (Mono.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, with vaudeville. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,700)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,600)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,700)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $5,900. (Average: $5,800)

TEMPTATION (U) and BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)

$200,000 Theatre Suit

Indianapolis, Feb. 4.—A suit for damages totaling $200,000 has been filed in Federal Court here against Vern Young of Garry, Robert R. Young, Marc Wolf and Albert R. Blocher of Indianapolis, officers and directors of Fiftyler, Inc., the Montgomery Theatre Corp. and the Y. and W. Management Corp.

The suit, brought by three California stockholders of Fiftyler, charges the lease of a combined theatre, store and apartment building at Gary at a yearly rental $20,000 less than a "just rate." It asks appointment of a receiver to collect rents and profits and liquidate and distribute proceeds among stockholders.

Australian Quota Looms

Australian authorities are considering recommending a 20 per cent reduction in the importation of American pictures, according to press dispatches received here last night.

Hear Hughes Bid Today

Hearing of arguments on a motion by Howard Hughes, producer of "The Outlaw," for dismissal of defense claims advanced by New York City license commissioner Benjamin Fielding and police commissioner Arthur Wallander in Hughes' suit against the city officials to restrain them from barring exhibition of the film, will be held this morning in New York Supreme Court before Judge Shientag. The hearing, originally scheduled for yesterday, was postponed because the judge was tied up with other cases.

$310,000 for Novel

Richard Sherman's new novel, "Not So Long Ago" has been bought for $310,000 by 20th Century-Fox, the company reports here. Negotiations were completed by Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production, who assigned William Perlberg to produce the film with a tentative starting date set for late this year.

Warners Highlights Stock Transactions

Philadelphia, Feb. 4. — Deals by the three Warner brothers highlighted film security transactions, according to the latest SEC report for the month ending Jan. 10. Jack Warner donated 1,000 shares of WB $5 par common to the Jewish Welfare Federation, leaving his holdings at 429,000 shares. His trust acquired 7,300 shares, making a total of 19,300. Harry Warner's trust acquired an additional 2,600 shares and reported his personal holdings at 300,000 shares. Albert Warner acquired 3,900 shares, bringing his total to 430,000. His trust acquired 7,400 shares.

Warrants for purchase of common stock in Universal Pictures were acquired by the following company officials: Charles D. Prutzman, 2,950; William A. Scully, 3,000, and Joseph H. Seidelman, 3,000.

In a belated report, Barney Balaban reported selling 300 shares of Paramount common. He also reported as of October, 1946, that he was holding 2,000,000 conversion notes calling for 2¾ per cent.

Nicholas M. Schenck sold 1,000 shares of Loew's, Inc., making his total 21,349.

R. Robert Rubin sold 100 Loew's shares in Columbia Pictures.

The following were also reported: Jack Cohn of New York sold 550 shares; Abraham Montague gave nine shares to charity and Abraham Schneider disposed of 14 shares.

The following trusts reported these holdings: Ralph Cohn, 7,764 shares; Joseph Cohn, 6,562 shares; Jeanette Cohn, 1,647, and Robert Cohn, 10,680.

300 at "Fifth Avenue" Dinner and Preview

Approximately 300 exhibitors and press representatives attended an invitational press preview of Allied Artists' "It Happened on Fifth Avenue" at the RKO 23rd Street Theatre here last night following a dinner at the Brevoort Hotel.

Old-style, open-top Fifth Avenue buses bought by Allied Artists and Monogram were used to haul the group from the hotel to the theatre where the Roy Del Ruth production was shown. Among Monogram-Allied Artists eexcutives at the event were Ed Morey, vice-president and assistant to president Steve Broidy, and Norton V. Ritchey, president of Monogram International.

Hersh Now Independent

Hollywood, Feb. 4.—Ben Hersh, president of RCM Productions, has resigned to re-enter independent production. He will also continue producing the "Lum and Abner" series, distributed by RKO Radio.

Robinson on Series

Earl Robinson, composer of "Ballad for Americans" and "The Lonesome Train," arrived here yesterday from Hollywood to finish his series of symphonic tone-poems for "The Roosevelt Story," which is being produced by Tola Productions.

5th Columbus Station

Columbus, Ga., Feb. 4.—Columbus will soon have it's fifth radio station, according to William K. Jenkins, Atlanta's president of the Chattahoochee Broadcasting Co. and circuit head.

"Swell Guy" TOPS "THE"

TOP REVIEWS

IN NEW YORK

" **'SWELL GUY'** gets top rating from New York Daily News, which says: — "'Swell Guy' has tremendous appeal. The picture is a daring production."

" **'SWELL GUY'** is interesting, fresh, tough and masculine. It deserves applause," says PM.

" **'SWELL GUY'** has atmosphere, suspense and considerable emotional strength. 'Swell Guy' is a sounder and more powerful entertainment than the average motion picture problem drama," says the New York Herald Tribune.

" **'SWELL GUY'** is bitterly, uncompromisingly ironic. It's a full-size portrait of a heel. Don't miss this one." — New York Journal-American.

" **'SWELL GUY'** is an honest picture," says the New York Sun.

IN CHICAGO

" **'SWELL GUY'** is a swell picture."
—Chicago Herald-American

" **'SWELL GUY'** is interesting and unusual. You'll like the performances and its air of realism." —Chicago Times

" **'SWELL GUY'** is a movie that's unusual. The film will hold your interest by its very difference." —Chicago Tribune

" **'SWELL GUY'** is above the average movie." —Chicago News

" **'SWELL GUY'** has the same realistic characterizations which marked 'The Killers.' All performers rate high."
—Chicago Sun

"'SWELL GUY' is a SWELL PICTURE!"

AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK — FEBRUARY 16-23

"KILLERS" N. Y. DAILY MIRROR

...TOP BUSINESS

IN LOS ANGELES

"'SWELL GUY' should do all right with the fans. It is an interesting picture . . . well made and played."
—Los Angeles Herald-Express

"'SWELL GUY' is a mental jolt. Only a smart guy like Mark Hellinger, who knows that the public is considerably more mature than most producers believe, would have had the courage to make 'Swell Guy'." —Los Angeles Examiner

"'SWELL GUY' is interesting and mature."
—Los Angeles Daily News

"'SWELL GUY' is a hard-hitting dramatic story." —Hollywood Citizen-News

IN CINCINNATI

"'SWELL GUY' is an adult movie...daring by screen standards . . . another good one to the credit of producer Hellinger."
—Cincinnati Post

"Mark Hellinger who produced 'The Killers' has rung the bell again."
—Cincinnati Times Star

MARK HELLINGER
who made "The Killers," presents

SWELL GUY

...Except to the women who really knew him!

Sonny TUFTS
...in a NEW role...and TERRIFIC!

Ann BLYTH
...that daughter of "Mildred Pierce"

with Ruth WARRICK

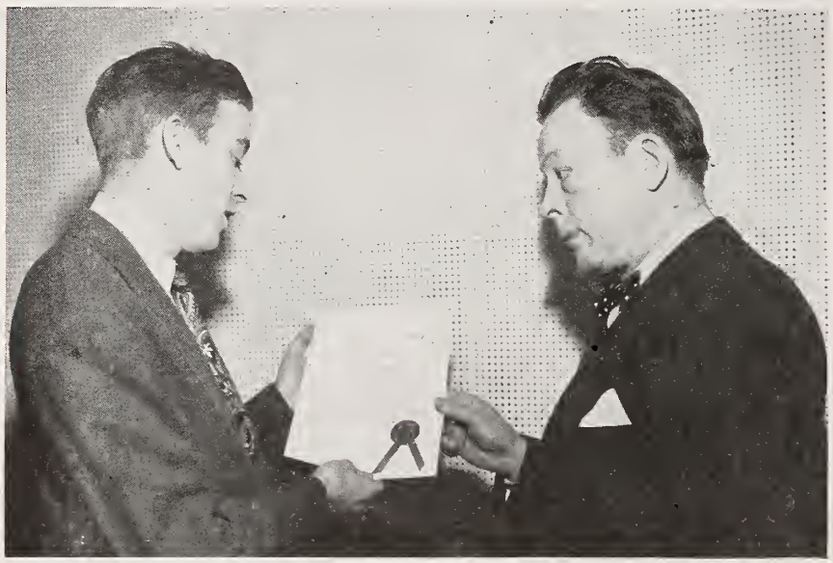
WILLIAM GARGAN • THOMAS GOMEZ • MARY NASH • JOHN LITEL

Directed by FRANK TUTTLE • Associate Producer EDDIE BLATT • Screenplay by RICHARD BROOKS
Based on a play by Gilbert Emery • Director of Photography Tony Gaudio, A. S. C.

A MARK HELLINGER PRODUCTION • A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

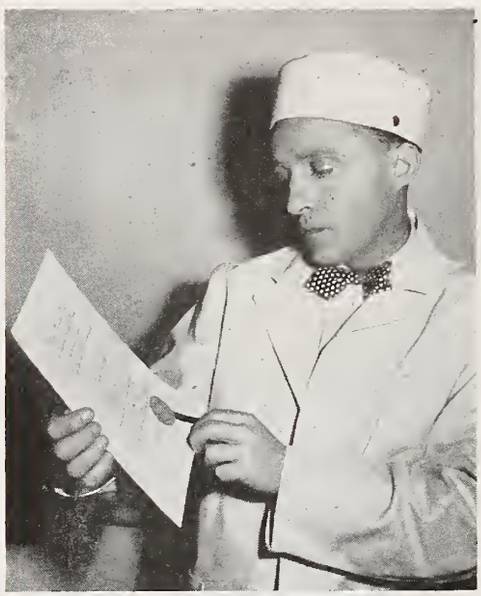
ays WALTER WINCHELL

1946 Radio Poll Winners Receive Scrolls



FRED ALLEN, Champion of Champions in the 11th Annual Radio Poll for Fame Magazine, receives scroll from Gene Arneel of Motion Picture Daily.

JACK BENNY presents scroll for Best Announcer to Don Wilson.



Bing Crosby, voted Best Male Vocalist, Popular, and Best "M.C.", makes sure it's official.

H. V. Kaltenborn, Best News Commentator, presented scroll by Gene Arneel.

Best Comedienne Joan Davis receives scroll from Eddie Cantor.

Dinah Shore, Best Female Popular Vocalist, is presented winner's scroll in Hollywood.

Robert Mitchum, William Keighley and Laraine Day accept for Lux Theatre.

Bill Stern, Best Sportscaster, is presented scroll by Gene Arneel as widow of Graham MacNamee looks on.

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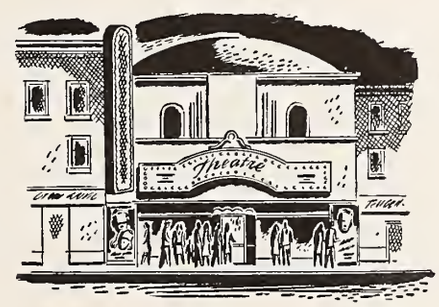

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Allied Will Support 'Brotherhood' Drive

Allied States Association has endorsed "American Brotherhood Week," Feb. 16-23, and the motion picture appeal for the war orphans of Greece, a one-month drive to begin on March 8 in honor of Spyros P. Skouras, national Allied president Jack Kirsch announces.

Fred Wehrenberg, president of the MPTOA, and Ted Gamble, chairman of the American Theatres Association, are co-chairmen, with Skouras and Kirsch, of the brotherhood campaign. Ned E. Depinet, Si Fabian and Jack Cohn are co-chairmen of the Greek War Orphan Drive.

Keefe and Wise Draw Up Cincinnati Campaign

CINCINNATI, Feb. 4.—Jim Keefe, 20th Century-Fox field exploiteer, and Nathan Wise, RKO Theatres advertising manager here, have drawn up an advertising-publicity campaign to promote "American Brotherhood Week" in Cincinnati. Street car cards, slugs for department store advertisements, window displays and radio spot announcements are included in the campaign.

Verdict Is Upheld In Paolillo Case

The appeal board of the Motion Picture Arbitrational Tribunals has affirmed the decision denying Antonio and Ciro Paolillo, operators of the Paradise Theatre, Brooklyn, their requests to eliminate clearance on Paramount and Loew's Product between the Paradise and Gavan Amusement's Avon. The two film company defendants were said to impose a seven-day clearance in favor of the Avon. The ruling set the clearance over the Paradise at a three-day maximum. Costs were assessed against each of the four parties equally.

New Board Named

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—The new editorial board of the *Hollywood Quarterly* includes John Collier, James Hilton, Irving Pichel and Abraham Polonsky, representing the Writers' Mobilization, and Samuel Farquar, Dr. Franklin Fearing, Dr. Franklin Rolfe and Kenneth MacGowan, representing the University of California.

Adrian E. Ford, 71

NORWICH, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Adrian E. Ford, former theatre operator, died here Sunday night at his home after several years of failing health.

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Bogeaus and Lupino In Joint Production

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Benedict Bogeaus and Ida Lupino have formed Arcadia Productions to make one film a year for three years, all starring Miss Lupino, for United Artists release. The first will be "The Queen's Necklace." This will be apart from the activities of Benedict Bogeaus Productions, also releasing through United Artists.

Appeal Filings

(*Continued from page* 1)

DAILY on Jan. 23, Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, is grooming the government's appeal for a March 1 filing. Under the Supreme Court's Rule No. 52-B, he pointed out, the deadline for appeals could be interpreted as 60 days after the New York court's ruling on motions for modification of the decree, provided the high tribunal should find that the questions raised by those motions were "substantial." Only way, however, of getting a ruling on this point would be to appeal after March 1, in which event the judges at Washington might possibly hold that the step had been taken too late, Wright explained, adding that he, for one, was unwilling to run such a risk.

This view, it developed yesterday, also is shared by at least some of the counsel for the theatre-owning defendants, two of whom declared they were certain all defense appeals will be filed on or before March 1. Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal counsel, reiterated his intention of playing safe likewise. And Columbia, as previously reported, is planning to appeal through attorney Louis Frohlich this week. Although Paramount, M-G-M, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners have not formally stated that they will appeal, a spokesman for them has indicated that their carrying the case to the Supreme Court is highly probable.

Final Draft

(*Continued from page* 1)

to establish funds for research, educational and scientific work—has been incorporated in the by-laws after a survey of by-laws of many existing foundations of a similar nature in order to embrace the broad scope of the proposed organization.

Members of the committee, appointed at the organizational meeting in New Orleans last Dec. 3, are: Samuel Pinanski, Tom J. Connors, Col. H. A. Cole, Karl Hoblitzelle, Ted Gamble, Chick Lewis, Fred Wehrenberg, Edward G. Zorn and Leonard Goldenson.

Plans are now being drafted for field organizational meetings in the spring.

AFL 'Assures' SAG

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—The Screen Actors' Guild, which last week telegraphed the American Federation of Labor Executive Council urging adoption of its resolution calling for permanent arbitration machinery, has received a telegram from AFL President William Green, who assured the Guild that the Council "is giving sympathetic and careful consideration to suggestion submitted in your message."

Intervenors Appeal Clearance Award

An appeal from a clearance award by the Boston tribunal of the American Arbitration Association has been filed with the appeal board in New York by Colonial Theatres Co. and the State Operating Co. of Nashua and Manchester, N. H., respectively, intervenors in a complaint filed against M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO Radio and Warner Brothers by Latchis Theatres of Keene, N. H., operator of the Latchis in Milford, N. H.

In his award, Raymond C. Baldes, the arbitrator, held that maximum clearance granted the Colonial in Nashua should be 26 days and no more than 34 days after territorial release date. He held, furthermore, that no clearance "in the form of priority of run or otherwise" should be granted in licenses by the distributors to the Manchester theatres of State Operating Co., "except on pictures not shown at the Nashua theatres, and as to such pictures, the maximum clearance should be 26 days, but no more in any event, than 34 days after territorial release date."

M-G-M Cancels Trips

(*Continued from page* 1)

absent from their posts for four weeks. The 14 field representatives were scheduled to meet in New York on Thursday and spend a week there with John P. Byrne, Eastern sales manager, as host. From New York, the men were scheduled to go to Pittsburgh, Chicago, New Orleans, and Los Angeles where local sales managers would conduct a series of meetings with them.

With "The Yearling," "Till the Clouds Roll By," "The Beginning or the End," and "Sea of Grass" topping the crop of new features coming up for marketing, in addition to "The Arnelo Affair," "It Happened in Brooklyn," "High Barbaree," and "Cynthia's Secret," M-G-M says it is prepared to offer a steady flow of product for the next few months.

In lieu of the planned five-city tour, the men have been rewarded with bonuses, it was added.

Slated to make the tour were John S. Allen, district manager with headquarters in Washington; Saul Gottlieb, Pittsburgh; L. C. Wingham, San Francisco; D. C. Kennedy, Des Moines; Ben Rosenwald, Charlotte; Louis Formato, Philadelphia; Jack B. Mundstuk, Buffalo, all managers; Irvin Jacobs, Pittsburgh; Edward Dunn, Des Moines; Ray Ervin, Charlotte; Frank Jelenko, Philadelphia; Alex W. Weissman, Los Angeles, all salesmen; Joseph Krobman, Washington office manager; Max Shabason, Pittsburgh booker.

Vice-President Rodgers left here tonight for the Coast to spend the next few weeks looking at new product. Other field and home office executives also left tonight for their respective headquarters, including Edward M. Saunders and Edwin W. Aaaron, assistant sales managers, New York; Rudolph Berger, Southern sales manager, New Orleans; John J. Maloney, Central sales head, Pittsburgh; John P. Byrne, Eastern, New York.

During the meetings here, Rodgers outlined plans for the new product scheduled for release in the next four months.

Only three persons not associated with M-G-M were guests of the company at the luncheon at the Drake Hotel here today. They were Harry Balaban, of Harry and Elmer Balaban Theatres; Edward Brunnell, independent theatre owner, and Hal Tate of MOTION PICTURE DAILY's Chicago bureau.

To Negotiate Deal For Veterans' Films

Washington, Feb. 4.—A new deal for the rental of films to Veterans Administration Facilities will be arranged at a meeting of VA representatives, the Motion Picture Association, and distributors at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York on Feb. 11-13. Contracts will also be formulated for the lease of pictures to veterans hospitals.

Veterans Administration officials to meet with the distributors will be: A. S. Mason, assistant director of special services; C. Bream, Jr., acting director of recreation; J. C. Cassidy, chief of the motion picture division and David Palfreyman of the MPA.

Reciprocal Trade

(*Continued from page* 1)

Johnston has given considerable time to a study of the overall situation, it was said, with the aim of presenting his argument when he testifies following Rep. Harold Knutson, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Knutson is described as being a bitter foe of reciprocity arrangements.

Results of the Washington hearing will have a bearing on the Geneva Trade Conferences, beginning April 8, in which 18 key countries will participate. At this, the U. S. will be represented by William Clayton, Assistant Secretary of State, and aides. Russia has yet to answer the bid to attend.

Knutson, Sen. Hugh Butler and other Congressmen have contested the continuation on the grounds that the negotiation of trade agreements on a reciprocal basis would lower living standards in this country. Knutson took the same position last year when he was House Minority Leader.

Butler told the Senate last week that the State Department is considering further lowering of tariffs. Close to 800 briefs already have been filed with the Committee on Reciprocity.

Johnston's position, and he is said not to be alone, is one strongly supporting freer trade among nations with the elimination, wherever possible, of barriers. In an address to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce last week, he called upon the Republican Party to lend its support to this program.

Crouch Film for Astor

Producer William Crouch yesterday completed production of a three-reeler, "Ebony Parade", a musical, at Film Craft Studio in the Bronx, for Bob Savini's Astor Pictures, state-righter.

FAME

OL.

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ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK (20)

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 4

SOL M. WURTZEL has signed a long-term contract with Edward Nassour for stage and office space at the latter's new studios. Wurtzel, who is currently filming "The Crimson Key" for 20th Century-Fox release, will complete two more pictures at Sutherland Studios before moving to Nassour. . . . RKO Radio has exercised its option on the services of William Watts, who holds a three-way contractor as producer-director-writer.

•

Vincent Price has been signed to a term contract by Universal-International. His first picture there will be "Black Velvet," which will also star Ella Raines and Edmond O'Brien. . . . Jack Schwarz has engaged Paul Kelly for a top role in his next production, "Let the Chips Fall." . . . Jeanne Crain has had her 20th Century-Fox contract extended.

•

"That's Life," the story of a professor of serious music who becomes involved in an academic analysis of jazz, will be Danny Kaye's next starring vehicle for Samuel Goldwyn. Harry Tugend, formerly executive producer at Paramount, has been signed to develop the story. . . . Walter Colmes plans to produce and direct "Counter-Spy," with Charles Drake and Lynne Roberts in leading roles.

•

Milton Sperling is back from Sun Valley, with an ambitious undertaking in mind as his next production for Warner release. Titled "Nothing but the Night," it will attempt to combine a study of sociological trends in California with a fast-moving murder mystery. . . . Mark Hellinger has signed Charles Bickford to star in his next production for U-I, "Brute Force."

•

Adolphe Menjou, dapper character actor, has turned his talents to a new medium. He is writing a book about his experiences while making some 280 films, the most recent of which is M-G-M's "The Hucksters." . . . Charles Laughton is set for a stellar role in "The Big Clock," which Richard Maibaum will produce and John Farrow direct for Paramount.

•

Edgar Kennedy, who has been with RKO-Radio for 15 years, and Leon Errol, who has been there for 10 years, have been signed to new contracts calling for six two-reelers each for 1947. . . . Five-year-old Marcia Anne Northrop has been engaged by Samuel Goldwyn for a key role in "The Bishop's Wife," which goes into production this month with Cary Grant, David Niven and Teresa Wright in top roles.

•

Maureen O'Hara will star in RKO Radio's Technicolor feature, "Out of All Time." Laid in post-war England, it is a story of a strong love. . . . Edward Everett Horton has been signed for an important part in "The Mating Call," comedy which will be filmed for Columbia release by Franchot Tone and Raphael Hakim. . . . Lois Maxwell, 19-year-old Canadian actress, has been signed to a seven-year Warner contract.

'Smash-Up'

(*Continued from page* 1)

have been his. Reconciliation following, Miss Hayward realizes her need to pursue the bottle is ended.

The cross-current, romantically, involves Marsha Hunt, Bowman's secretary and girl Friday. While she loves him, he loves Miss Hayward who, in turn, misunderstands the situation and thereby finds another convenient excuse for another alcoholic "binge." In fact, this is only one of a series of standoffs which disintegrate their marriage until the dramatic turn arrives and the domestic situation again clambers toward its initial happiness and understanding.

Miss Hayward's role is difficult, but she acquits herself admirably throughout. Since she is the pivot, other principals never mean much, although it is not always understandable why treatment and interpretation insisted upon converting Bowman into the wishy-washy, colorless individual he is made to appear here. Miss Hunt, attractive to look at, has one very effective scene during which she clarifies her romantic position with Bowman. Eddie Albert, as friend and counsellor, does a quiet, but sound, job. Competent, too, are Carl Esmond, Charles D. Brown and others in support. Histrionically, however, "Smash-Up" is mostly Hayward, a yard wide and with lots of wool. Hollywood may be expected to vibrate with its usual excitement when the word about her gets around.

Aside from background music, there are five vocals alternately sung by Miss Hayward and Bowman. Thematically, the key number is "Life Can Be Beautiful," a sentimental ballad which already has made "The Hit Parade." Stuart Heisler's direction deserves commendation. Walter Wanger produced with Martin Jabel as associate.

Running time 103 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release in February.

RED KANN

"The Brasher Doubloon"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

A MURDER affair, and a good one, "The Brasher Doubloon" features Arthur Raymond Chandler's ace private sleuth, "Phillip Marlowe" (George Montgomery) and, essentially, a very pretty girl (Nancy Guild).

The title object, as every numismatist knows, is a rare coin and in this instance the cause of very much robust to-do, all calculated to arouse and hold interest. Detective fiction has been hitting box-office bullseyes of late, and there is little reason to doubt the performance of this latest venture in that field.

Competent writing and direction eliminated the possibilities of disconcerting involvement in the yarn which takes many intricate twists for purposes of deepening the mystery. It brings Montgomery to the home of a wealthy widow, Florence Bates, whose husband plunged to his death years ago. Miss Guild is the comely secretary, a mental case, led to believe that she is responsible for the man's death. Miss Bates' screen son, Conrad Janis, has gambling commitments and finds it convenient to be an extortionist, with his mother the victim. An assortment of other characters, all apparently quite capable of murder, appear in and out of the proceedings and when in have covetous eyes on the Brasher Doubloon, which is owned by Miss Bates.

A couple of corpses are found before Montgomery, after being badly battered by the heavies and warmly embraced by Miss Guild, presents the solution. Miss Bates, it turns out, had murdered her husband; Miss Guild is cured of her phobia against men, particularly Montgomery, and all ends well. Based on Chandler's novel, the film is directed by John Brahm and produced by Robert Bassler. Dorothy Hannah did the screenplay; the adaptation is by Leonard Praskins.

Running time, 72 minutes. General classification. Release in February.

GENE ARNEEL

Churchill On Imports

(*Continued from page* 1)

ances to put British industry in the best condition."

Churchill's entry into a debate on the reduction or elimination of American film imports came after Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had stated that he would study all possibilities of reducing "oversevere" expenditures in order to conserve Britain's dollar resources. As more good British films are produced, following the trend of the past few years, there will be less need to fill screens here with pictures from America or elsewhere, Dalton said.

Schary to RKO Today

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Dore Schary, recently-named RKO Radio vice-president in charge of production, will take active charge of the studio tomorrow, following competion of arrangments between RKO Radio president N. Peter Rathvon and Vanguard president Daniel T. O'Shea for Schary's release from his contract to the latter.

Pascal, Shaw Plays

(*Continued from page* 1)

was made after Pascal talked by trans-Atlantic telephone to London with the author, who has previously refused to allow his works to be filmed in Hollywood.

Under the new contract with the Pickford-Cowan company, Pascal will produce and direct "The Devil's Disciple" and "The Showing Up of Blanco Posnet" as the first of the Shaw plays to be filmed in this country. Others on the Pascal program include "St. Joan," "Candida," "Arms and the Man" and "Androcles and the Lion." Pascal's films for Artists Alliance will be released through United Artists, of which Miss Pickford is part owner.

Commenting on British competition to Hollywood, Pascal said that Hollywood is in for competition from "every major nation." The British producer added that every country is entering film production, not only for economic reasons, but for "self-expression."

Rank's Interests in Full 16mm. Accord

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Plans of the J. Arthur Rank interests on both sides of the Atlantic for exploitation of the worldwide 16 mm. market have reached the stage of complete joint action, according to Cremieu Javal, managing director of Rank's narrow-gauge enterprises in London, and Sigmund Dorfman, vice-president in charge of production for United World in New York.

Rank's people here are in daily communication with United World regarding American subjects for treatment and distribution in the educational, cultural and documentary fields. One educational picture weekly is planned for both America and England under the joint auspices.

Dorfmann said America is aiding with cotton, oil and soil-erosion sequences, as well as material for an atomic energy film now being produced here. Javal, visualizing 800,000 customers annually, said that Rank interests plan to build between 8,000 and 10,000 16 mm. projectors each year.

American educational authorities, Dorfman claimed, are fully behind United World's educational program, although U. S. Federal authorities have not gone beyond a general directive approving "visual aids." In England, the Education Ministry has given a "vague blessing" to the project, being unimpressed by the present uncoordinated supply of films.

Javal and Dorfmann were both evasive regarding the 16 mm. religious program, claiming only to have the support of some Protestants and adding that they would welcome both Catholic and Jewish groups.

FBI Continuing Its Drive on 16mm Film

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 4.—Drive of the FBI on unauthorized 16mm. distribution is continuing on the West Coast, with the filing of a criminal copyright infringement information in Federal Court, here, charging defendant with having furnished 51 films to commercial exhibitors in California.

Richard B. Hood, special FBI agent in charge of the Los Angeles office, announced that as a result of an investigation conducted by the FBI an information was filed in the District Court, charging William (Scotty) Brown, operator of Embro Pictures, Hollywood, with violation of the criminal section of the Federal copyright laws. The alleged infringement involved the rental by Brown of 16mm. films of major studio releases without the copyright owner's permission. Brown was charged with furnishing 37 films to a 16mm. exhibitor at Big Bear Lake, Cal., and 14 films to a similar exhibitor at Inyokern, Cal.

'Jennie' Crew Begins Trip

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Actors and technicians assigned to David O. Selznick's "Portrait of Jennie," which will be filmed entirely in New York, have begun Eastward migrations. Actor Joseph Cotten, director William Dieterle, and art director Joseph McMillan Johnson are already en route, with others scheduled to leave Hollywood during the week.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

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VOL. 61. NO. 26 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Allied High Court Move Waits Appeal

Myers Says Scope of Brief Undetermined Now

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Allied States will play the role of "watch dog" to see what arguments the appeal papers of the defendants and the government will contain before preparing an *amicus curiae* brief for the U. S. Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit, Abram F. Myers, general counsel for that organization, said here today.

Myers said that it will be difficult for the Justice Department to argue in opposition to the relief given by the lower court, meaning competitive bid-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Attendance Equal To 1946: Rodgers

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Actual theatre attendance, along with gross receipts, is holding up to the level of last year throughout the country, according to William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, who now is en route to the Coast following the company's sales meeting here this week.

Rodgers' conclusion, reached after discussion with his sales lieutenants from widely scattered areas, is at variance with recent widely-expressed opinions to the effect that increased admission prices have boosted grosses but that the number of patrons attending films has diminished.

Another spokesman for M-G-M de-

(*Continued on page 7*)

20th Drops Budget To Gain Flexibility

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—In a plan designed to leave production costs adjustable to the scope of each individual story, the 20th Century-Fox studio will operate without an over-all budget for the coming year, the company announced here today following conferences by Spyros P. Skouras, president; Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president, and Joseph M. Schenck, executive head of production.

The new plan will be applied to some 20 large-scale dramas and musicals scheduled to be made during the year, the announcement said.

U.A. Will Launch 'Modernized' Sales Meets This Month

United Artists' "modernized" sales meetings, announced in December by Gradwell L. Sears, will be launched in Buffalo, Feb. 22 to 25 with subsequent meetings at Pittsburg and El Paso, Feb. 27 to March 2, and Chicago, March 6 to 9, J. J. Unger, U. A. general sales manager, announced yesterday.

J. J. Unger

At each meeting, all available UA product will be shown to the company's sales staff. Unger, together with Sears and UA president Edward C. Raftery, will be on hand for at least one session of

(*Continued on page 7*)

Grinieff in Deal For 40 UA Reissues

Jacques Grinieff, president of U. S. Film Export Corp., will acquire from United Artists 40 films averaging about five years in age in a reported deal said to be in the final stages of negotiation.

The package arrangement is said to be on a global basis, with Grinieff, formerly a French producer, to dis-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Truman Wants 100% Trade Plan Support

Washington, Feb. 5.—President Truman, in his first report to Congress on the United States' participation in the United Nations, today called for "genuinely national bi-partisan" support of the Administration's foreign trade program.

The report coincided with increasing Republican opposition to the Administration's reciprocal trade program, which is endorsed by Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, and other industry leaders.

Para. Theatre Split Is Raibourn's Guess

Paul Raibourn, economist for Paramount and president of its subsidiary, Television Productions, said here yesterday it is his guess that Paramount will split the number of partially-owned theatres with its partners in the event the New York decree decision is sustained.

Rumors to this effect have been current in the trade for some time. However, Raibourn emphasized that the company has yet to set down any plan for complying with the decision, from which it will take an appeal, and consequently observers, including himself, can only offer conjecture. The decision outlaws holdings of between five and 96 per cent in theatre interests by the distributors.

Approximately 1,200 of Paramount's 1,500 theatres are affected by

(*Continued on page 6*)

"Angel and the Badman"

[*Republic*]

WITH segments of Hollywood apparently concentrating on efforts to rescue the Western film from the stereotyped formula, it is not surprising that Republic, long regarded as a nesting place of skilled technicians when it comes to quality "horse operas," should step forward with a "super" Western of three-dimensional calibre. "Angel and the Badman," starring John Wayne in his initial venture in production, is just such a product, tempering, without surrendering, action and gun-play in favor of character development and moral conflict. It will undoubtedly attract the large masses of Wesern fans throughout the world and, in addition, win a lot of new ones from that large segment of theatre patrons who seek protein, along with cake, in their celluloid diet.

Amply stocked with "names," Gail Russell is cast as the "angel" of the title to Wayne's "badman," with supporting roles portrayed by

(*Continued on page 7*)

First Case in Arbitration Since Decree

Albany Filing Extends Life of Board There

The first arbitration complaint to be filed since the New York Federal District court handed down its decree in the industry anti-trust suit on Dec. 31, providing for the termination of industry arbitration not later than March 31 except in tribunals where cases were pending prior to that date, was entered at the Albany tribunal yesterday.

The filing of the complaint automatically gives the Albany tribunal a new lease on life, since no other cases were pend-

(*Continued on page 7*)

British Production For Allied Artists

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Allied Artists will produce three features annually in England in association with Pathe, British distributor of AA and Monogram product, with details to be worked out in London during April, the company announced here today.

Steve Broidy, Monogram and AA president; W. Ray Johnston, chairman of the board of directors, and Norton V. Ritchey, president of Monogram International, are scheduled to leave here for London on April 9 to finalize plans for the project. Negotiations with Pathe were instituted by Broidy during his recent trip abroad.

MPA Luncheon for Ambassador Gardner

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, was host at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here yesterday for O. Max Gardner, who will leave for London today to assume his duties as U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain.

Also present were: Nicholas M. Schenck, Arthur Loew, Jack Warner, J. Cheever Cowdin, Charles D. Prutzman, Barney Balaban, George Weltner, Ned E. Depinet, Edward C. Raftery, Gradwell L. Sears, W. C. Michel, Wolfe Cohen, Sam Schneider, Nate Spingold, Irving Maas, George Borthwick, Carl E. Milliken, Gerald M. Mayer and the Ambassador's son, Ralph Gardner.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M's vice-president and general sales manager, is due to arrive in Hollywood from Chicago today. sales executives EDWARD M. SAUNDERS, EDWIN W. AARON, JOHN P. BYRNE and JAY EISENBERG will return to New York today from Chicago.

•

HAROLD LASSER, Department of Justice attorney, here, is in Washington for conferences with ROBERT L. WRIGHT, special assistant to U. S. Attorney-General TOM CLARK, in connection with the industry anti-trust suit.

•

A. W. SCHWALBERG, Eagle-Lion vice-president and general sales manager, and MAX E. YOUNSTEIN, advertising-publicity director, will leave New York today for Toronto.

•

BEN KALMENSON, vice-president and general sales manager of Warners, and NORMAN AYERS, Southern division sales manager, left New York yesterday for Jacksonville.

•

LOU LIFTON, Monogram's advertising-publicity chief, who contracted influenza on his return trip to Hollywood from New York recently, is back at his desk again.

•

LOUIS LAZAR, general manager of Paramount International's Continental Europe theatre department, will sail for his Paris headquarters on the *S. S. America* today.

•

GEORGE PAL, Paramount Puppetoons producer, arrived in New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

SACHA GORDINE, French producer, will leave New York for Hollywood at the week-end.

•

CARL LESERMAN has left Hollywood by plane for New York.

Economy Factor in Pascal Shift to US

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Producer Gabriel Pascal's move from London to Hollywood, where he will be associated with Artists Alliance, the new Mary Pickford-Lester Cowan company, in the filming of a number of Bernard Shaw's plays, was prompted by the belief that he can make better pictures more economically here, Pascal declares. The present lack of studio facilities in Britain also entered into the decision, he explains.

Pascal believes that British quotas will be increased but that the restrictions will be helpful to both countries.

The producer may make a picture within two or three years in Dublin, where he has become a stockholder in a new production group. First of his American pictures will be Shaw's "The Devil's Disciple," in which Jean Simmons, British actress, will star. She is scheduled to arrive here in June.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

UNOBTRUSIVELY incorporated in Tuesday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY was this paragraph on the annual convention of MPTO of Virginia in Washington:

Morton Thalhimer, president of Neighborhood Theatres, pointed out to the group that every time the Government comes to the rescue of the exhibitor in court, the theatreman has come off worse than before.

Wright [Robert L. of the Department of Justice] in the discussion virtually admitted this was true.

Comment becomes redundant, unrequired and irrelevant.

■ ■

Abram F. Myers' annual report to his board reiterates the years-old Allied position about theatre divorcement "not only to relieve the exhibitors against booking difficulties and high prices, but also in order that the way may be opened for new producers and distributors with new ideas and methods to come in." For, he continues, it "cannot be expected that capital will be forthcoming for such new enterprises until it is assured of fair access to the lucrative first run revenue."

What he does not observe, however, is that there may be a flood of new capital also pouring into new theatres provided competitive bidding is sustained by the Supreme Court. New ideas and methods, if they are new, won't change the front yard of production and distribution without altering the same area in exhibition.

■

Since the established customer has lost all standing in the eyes of the court, the lucrative first run money to which Myers refers ultimately may attract a lot of new climbers to the bandwagon—those well heeled by war profits, but not necessarily now in exhibition or in any other phase of the industry for that matter.

The theatre operator, now regarded as regularly constituted because he happens to have been in the running before these court decisions and decrees were handed down, therefore, may face a changing order along with the other two principal branches of the industry.

Exemptions may be comforting. But too much reliance on them could be disappointing.

Compounding an editorial on announced plans of the House Committee on Un-American Activities to go probing for the first time under Republican auspices, the New York *Daily News* blesses three phases of the program. One is the searching spotlight on Hollywood again.

"Some of our citizens," it goes, "are inclined to guffaw at the notion of $1,000-a-week Hollywood Communists, but they are nevertheless a menace. The movies into which they manage to dip an occasional party line finger are seen and paid for by millions of Americans who would prefer straight entertainment without sly propaganda."

Always the generality with its glitter. Never the who, what, when and where.

■ ■

In a difficult, if not impossible, cause perhaps. But Jean Hersholt, president of the Academy, at least told 'em off in that recent, frank letter to all members. Thus:

"Each year there is criticism of our Awards and there have been complaints that studio politics influence the voting. I am sending you this personal letter to urge that when you receive your ballot you will realize that you have a responsibility to the Academy ideal that individual achievement comes ahead of studio affiliation. Please remember that the Academy reputation for fair dealing and honest selection of the best achievement of your fellow-craftsmen rests in your hands."

But will they?

■ ■

Louis Phillips yesterday was repeating a story he told around the country when on tour by way of explaining what the consent decree was about. The question frequently thrown at him was:

"What is reasonable and unreasonable clearance?"

His answer: "Reasonable clearance is what I would have if I were an exhibitor. Unreasonable clearance is what the other fellow has."

■ ■

SO-YOU-THINK-IT'S-TOUGH DEPARTMENT: Arthur Dent, veteran British film man, has been informed by English friends they now take rugs and blankets to West End [Britain's Times Square] theatres.

They say they can't keep warm any other way.

PRC Production Is Ahead by 6 Months

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—With 20 pictures already completed and shipped, or in various stages of editing, and with one additional film currently shooting, seven new productions are being prepared to go before the cameras at Producers Releasing Corporation during February and March, the company announced today.

On completion of the currently-shooting film, "Step-Child," and seven pictures next slated for filming, production at the studio will be more than six months ahead of release schedule, it was stated.

The films currently being completed are: "Hollywood Hi," "Girls' Camp," "Matteawan," an untitled "Gas House Kids" film, a "Lash" La Rue Western, an untitled Michael Shayne mystery and "Gangway for Murder."

Ben Zeidman Leaving Columbia on Mar. 15

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Bennie Zeidman, supervisor of Columbia's low-budget product, is leaving that studio on Mar. 15. His future plans are unannounced.

The studio is adopting a new system whereby low-budget product will be made by separate units coordinated by the front office. Sam Katzman, Rudolph Flothow and Wallace Macdonald head three of the units, and Ted Richmond and Robert Cohn the fourth. John Haggott, currently producing under Zeidman, will be promoted to high-budget pictures.

AMPA Lunch Today Will Honor Edison

The Thomas A. Edison Centennial will be observed at today's luncheon-meeting of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers at the Town Hall Club.

George Wever, *Life* promotion director, and Terry Ramsaye, editor of *Motion Picture Herald* are among the scheduled speakers. AMPA president Rutgers Neilson will officiate, and vice-president Phil Williams will be master of ceremonies. Madeline Edison Sloane, daughter of the inventor, will be among the guests.

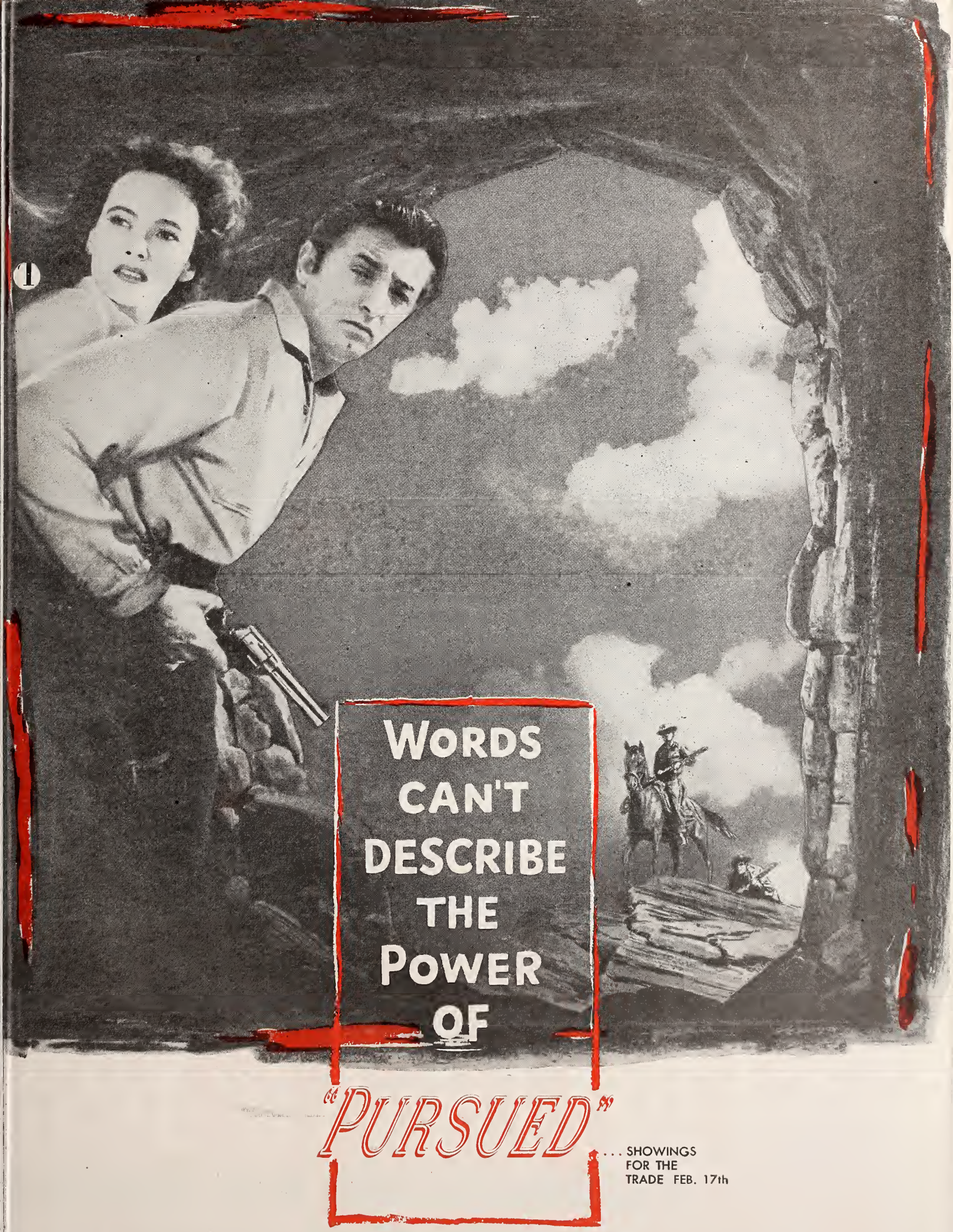
Public Votes on Ending

An audience vote, to be taken at the first showing of Eagle-Lion's "Bedelia" at the Victoria Theatre here tomorrow, will determine which of two endings will be permanently used on the picture. Since the MPA code ruled out suicide as the killer's "way out," the studio shot a new ending showing Bedelia, the killer, giving herself up.

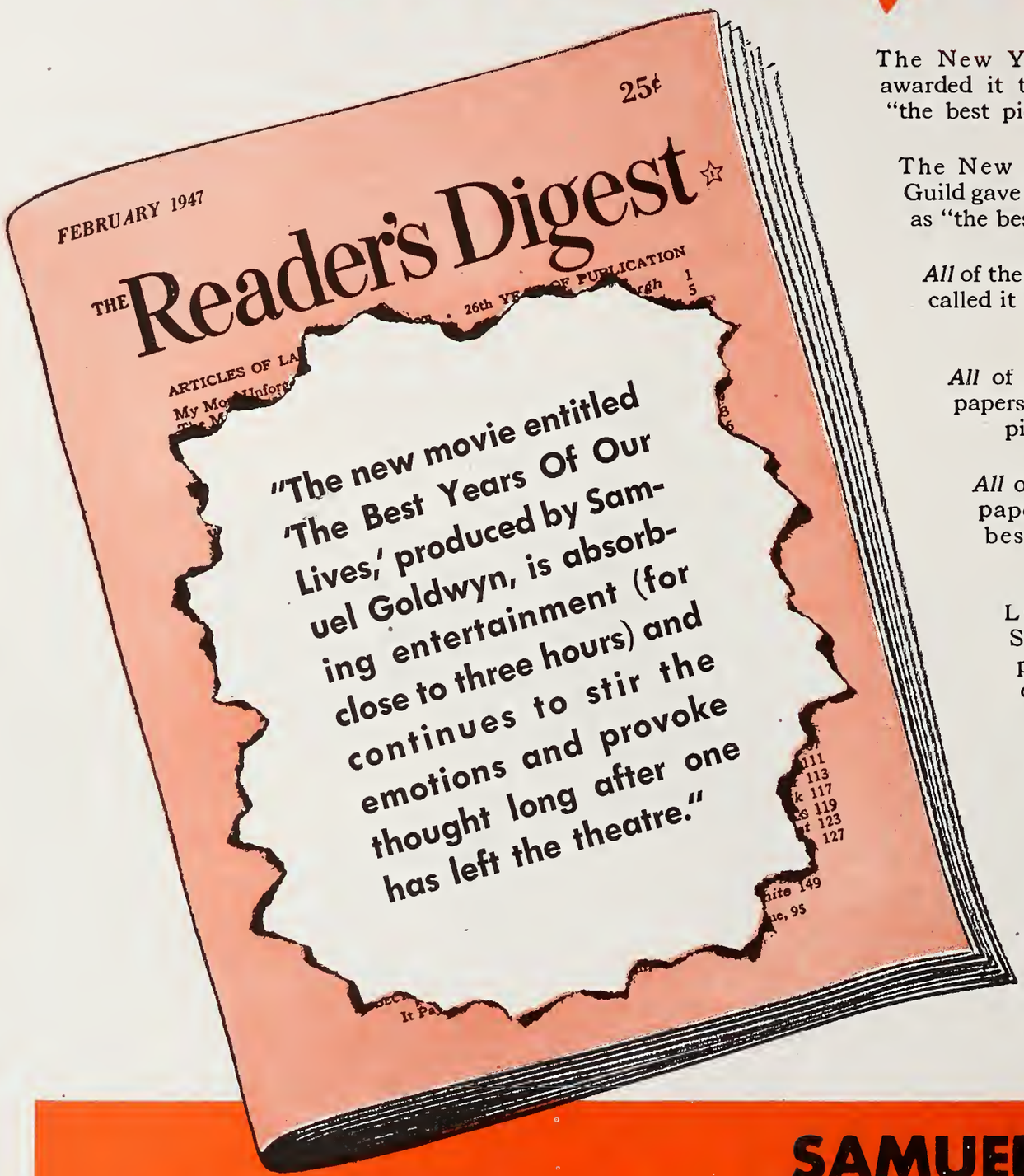
50¢ CBS Dividend

The Board of Directors of Columbia Broadcasting yesterday declared a cash dividend of 50c per share on Class A and B stock of $2.50 par value, payable Mar. 7 to stockholders of record at the close of business on Sept. 21.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


1
WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE THE POWER OF
"PURSUED"
. . . SHOWINGS FOR THE TRADE FEB. 17th
SA WRIGHT
ROBERT MITCHUM in MILTON SPERLING'S PRODUCTION of NIVEN BUSCH'S "PURSUED" with JUDITH ANDERSON • DEAN JAGGER • ALAN HALE and Introducing JOHN RODNEY
ORIGINAL SCREEN PLAY BY NIVEN BUSCH • MUSIC BY MAX STEINER • Directed by RAOUL WALSH • Produced by UNITED STATES PICTURES for WARNERS

Honors pile



The New York Film Critics awarded it the honor of being "the best picture of the year."

The New York Newspaper Guild gave it its page one awa as "the best film of the year."

All of the Boston newspapers called it "the best picture of the year."

All of the Chicago newspapers called it "the best picture of the year."

All of the Miami newspapers called it "the best picture of the year."

LOUELLA PARSONS, in Cosmopolitan, says: "one of the best pictures I've ever seen."

HEDDA HOPPER says, "best picture of the year."

SAMUEL GOLD

The BEST Yea

starring **MYRNA LOY • FREDRIC MARCH • DANA ANDREW**

Directed by **WILLIAM WYLER** • Screenplay by **ROBERT E. SHERWOO**

Released thru

AMERICAN
BROTHERHOOD WEEK
FEBRUARY 16-23

upon Honors...!

JIMMIE FIDLER says, "pic of the pictures."

LOOK says, "one of the greatest of all time."

TIME says "first on everyone's list."

LEADING EDITORIAL in the New York Times says, "a poignant drama of real life . . . important . . . enriching."

The LEADING EDITORIAL in Collier's says, "a highly significant and important motion picture drama."

MOVIE OF THE MONTH Award from Scholastic Magazine.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH Award from Parents' Magazine.

LIBERTY says, "A superb movie which all America can claim as its own . . ."

LIFE says "an honest, adult and absorbing film."

For Veterans: *American Legion National Commander Paul H. Griffith* wrote: "My sincere congratulations to Mr. Samuel Goldwyn for an outstanding picture." *General Omar Bradley* wrote: "I cannot thank you too much for bringing this story to the American people."

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS acclaimed it as "the best picture of the month."

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE (Mrs. William S. Kilborne) wrote: "You should feel great satisfaction to have produced a picture of such constructive value."

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR refers to it as "the best movie of the year."

COMMONWEAL, the National Catholic Weekly, says: "A magnificent job . . . a fine film . . . a really *good* motion picture."

MODERN SCREEN, in April, will say, "It's true . . . but you couldn't know *how true!* An excellent entertainment."

DR. RALPH SOCKMAN, reviewing a film on NBC's "National Radio Pulpit" for the first time in history, said, "I cannot refrain from confessing how deeply I was moved."

VOX POP, over 142 stations of the CBS network, devoted 30 minutes to practically unrestrained praise of "The Best Years of Our Lives."

...AND BOX-OFFICE HONORS!...Variety reports: "Los Angeles—Among holdover roadshows, inauguration of downtown Palace for day-date (with Beverly) showcasing of 'Best Years' is proving SOCKO . . . Boston—Esquire holding up on fifth week . . . Chicago—'Best Years' best bet at Woods...New York—Astor business solid, continues indefinitely."

'N'S

s of Our Lives

ERESA WRIGHT • VIRGINIA MAYO • HOAGY CARMICHAEL

m a Novel by MacKINLAY KANTOR • Director of Photography GREGG TOLAND

dio Pictures

Would Group Film Appeals on Docket

Washington, Feb. 5.—A move to have appeals in the industry anti-trust suit and the Schine and Griffith cases placed on the docket of the U. S. Supreme Court in numerical order will be made by Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, the Department of Justice reported here today.

Wright will point out that the cases are closely related and, basically, will require reference to the same laws by the jurists.

Allied

(*Continued from page* 1)

ding. However, the Allied general counsel pointed out that the basis for argument before the high court will be "that the court failed to give the government desired relief, meaning theatre divorcement."

Asked if Allied plans to fight competitive bidding in any form, Myers said that it depends entirely upon what the government asks in its brief. Myers said that United Artists, Universal and Columbia will base their appeal on a fight against competitive bidding.

Interim Relief

The government, Myers said, will probably ask the Supreme Court to grant complete divorcement with some interim relief during the period allowed for divestiture, if it is successful.

Myers expressed the belief that the New York case will be sped to conclusion during the October sitting of the Supreme Court. He hailed the New York court's decision against motions for amendment of the final judgment as another move which will bring the case to a quicker end.

Myers stated that no date has been set for Allied's summer meeting, but it will be sometime in May. Questioned on the possibility of an executive committee meeting within 30 days to make final plans for the production of 12 pictures by Allied, Myers said no decision has been made on this matter but added that Irving Dollinger, chairman of the production committee, will make a report soon which will be circulated among executive committee members.

"If a special meeting is necessary to formulate and grant a contract, we will call one," Myers concluded.

$135 in 'Dimes' Drive

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 5.—A total of $135, collected at the Eagle Theatre, an independent house owned by Joseph Grand, from Jan. 24 to 27 for the March of Dimes has been added to the Albany Sports Infantile Paralysis Fund.

Raibourn

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Federal court decree. Most of the company's holdings are 50-50 partnerships, which would simplify any arrangement by which half of the theatres could become wholly-owned by Paramount and half by existing partners, provided agreements on terms could be worked out.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CLEVELAND

Stormy weather early in the week and zero temperature over the weekend held grosses around average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5-6:

SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $23,800)

THE WICKED LADY (U)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,000)

HENRY V (UA)—LOWER MALL (500) ($1.25-$2.50) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,500)

THE MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $12,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $21,400)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—WARNER'S HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,600)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c-75c) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,650)

BUFFALO

Clearing weather, after a two-day ice storm, has helped business somewhat. "The Razor's Edge" is far out in front. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 8:

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $19,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—GREAT LAKES (3,000), (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $31,800. (Average: $18,000)

THE CHASE (UA) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $10,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $16,000)

BOSTON

Business is booming. The weather has been fair. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 5:

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10). Stage show: King Cole Trio and Sue Ryan. Gross: $44,000. (Average: $27,500)

CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and FLIGHT TO NOWHERE (Screen Guild)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $7,800. (Average: $6,900)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $32,000. (Average: $23,500)

CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and FLIGHT TO NOWHERE (Screen Guild)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $16,800. (Average: $15,100)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $25,000. (Averege: $16,900)

Legion of Decency Rates 13 New Films

The National Legion of Decency has classified six of 13 new films as unobjectionable for general patronage, six as unobjectionable for adults and one objectionable in part. The pictures and their classifications follow:

Class A-1, "Colorado Serenade," "The Devil on Wheels" and "Wild Country," Producers Releasing, "Lone Star Moonlight," Columbia; "Song of Scheherazade," Universal, and "Trail to San Antone," Republic. Class A-2, "The Beast with Five Fingers," Warners; "Beat the Band," RKO Radio; "Blind Spot," "Dead Reckoning" and the "Lone Wolf in Mexico," Columbia; "Secrets of a Sorority Girl," Producers Releasing. Class B. Los Amores de un Torero," Aztec Films.

Columbus Variety Meet

CLEVELAND, Feb. 5.—John D. Kalafat, Henry Greenberger, M. B. Horwitz, Frank Gross, Harry Schreiber and Nat Wolf will attend the Variety Club meeting in Columbus tomorrow when newly-elected Gov. Herbert becomes an honorary Variety Club member.

Jarman at Music Hall

Claude Jarman, Jr., young star of "The Yearling," will make a personal appearance on the Radio City Music Hall stage this afternoon as the M-G-M technicolor production enters its third week at the house.

RKO Plans 4 Trade Shows This Month

RKO Radio's "Trail Street" and "Beat the Band" will be trade screened in most exchange cities on Feb. 19. Atlanta will see them on Feb. 20, Des Moines on Feb. 21 and New Orleans on Feb. 26. "Band" will be shown in Seattle on Feb. 18.

"Code of the West" and "The Devil Thumbs a Ride" will be shown in most exchange cities on Feb. 20. Atlanta and New Orleans will see them on the 21st and 27th, respectively. "Code" will be screened in San Francisco on Feb. 13.

'Ramrod' Selected as Utah Centennial Film

"Ramrod," first Enterprise picture to be released by United Artists, has been selected as the official film of the Utah Centennial by the Utah State Centennial Commission, according to United Artists. Produced by Harry Sherman, "Ramrod" will be given a world premiere at the Utah Theatre, Salt Lake, on Feb. 21 with state-wide openings in 28 cities in Utah.

Grinieff, UA

(*Continued from page* 1)

tribute the product as reissues in this country through the facilities of his existing organization.

The firm has purchased many other UA pictures in previous deals, but for rights in certain foreign countries only.

Decision Reserved At 'Outlaw' Hearing

N. Y. Supreme Court Justice Bernard L. Shientag yesterday reserved decision on a motion by Howard Hughes, producer of "The Outlaw," to dismiss defense claims in his suit against City License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding and Police Commissioner Arthur Wallander to prevent them from revoking or suspending the license of any theatre operator here who exhibits the controversial film.

At the same time, Justice Shientag granted the petition by attorneys for the League of New York Theatres to intervene as *amicus curiae* in the motion before the court.

Hughes' suit for a declaratory judgment to restrain the city officials hinges now on interpretation of whether the license and police commissioners have the power to punish exhibitors of a film licensed by the motion picture division of the State Education Department.

Charles Poletti, attorney for Hughes, argued that since "The Outlaw" was licensed by the state, such licensing "is conclusive on the subject of decency, and that the city officials do not possess the legal right to revoke or threaten to revoke the license of an exhibitor on the strength of their opinion about the decency or immorality of a film."

Assistant Corporation Counsel Charles F. Preusse and Daniel Rosen, acting for the city, contended that the issuance of a license does not carry with it immunity from prosecution under the penal code.

Scheduled exhibition of "The Outlaw" was thwarted at the end of last October, when Fielding and Wallander indicated they would shut down the Republic, Gotham and Rialto.

Book Berlin Song for 'Brotherhood Week'

As a special feature for American Brotherhood Week, Feb. 16-23, Skouras metropolitan theatres will show a song trailer of Irving Berlin's "Help Me To Help My Neighbor," the official song written for the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The Century Circuit and other metropolitan circuits also are making plans to feature the subject.

Lloyd Opening Set

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5. — Howard Hughes has set the world premiere of Harold Lloyd's new comedy, "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock," for Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Lincoln theatre in Miami. Lloyd has left Hollywood for Miami to attend a meeting of national officers of the Shriners and make a personal appearance at the "Diddlebock" premiere.

Pergament Gets Film

"The Tinderbox," by Hans Christian Andersen, produced in Denmark into a full-length, color cartoon, has been acquired by Harvey Pergament, for distribution in the United States and other territories.

'Henry V' Record

The biggest opening day gross for "Henry V" engagements has been registered at the 3,300-seat Eastman Auditorium in Rochester, with $6,783 counted, UA reports.

Red Cross Chapter Rejects PCC Check

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—The Los Angeles chapter of the American Red Cross today rejected "with regret" the Permanent Charities Committee Check for $100,000 proferred as first payment on a $201,250 allocation, which equals 12½ per cent of the Los Angeles quota. Simultaneously, the PCC sent a $200,000 check to the Community Chest as first payment on an allocated $811,650, equalling the same per cent of the Chest's Los Angeles quota.

PCC chairman Edward Arnold, in a letter accompanying the Red Cross check, said in part, "We regret that Red Cross national headquarters has published newspaper advertisements containing many statements known to be false and misleading by workers in our industry. We are, as you know, committed by vote of the entire industry and by resolutions of all unions, guilds and other organizations to conduct only one charity solicitation annually. Obviously we cannot permit misstatements or advertisements to deter us from carrying out our obligation to the people we represent."

In a press release announcing rejection of the PCC donation, William T. Sesnon, Jr., chairman of the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross, said that the action was taken "with regret" and under instructions from Washington headquarters. He also said that newspaper advertisements had been published without clearing them through the Los Angeles chapter.

Solon Spurs Probe Of Radio 'Crime'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—The House will be asked to authorize a Congressional investigation of radio programs, with particular reference to crime broadcasts, Rep. Walt Horan (Wash.) said today.

Rep. Horan said he will present the bill on behalf of parents, who, he said, have been worried because of crime and suspense programs coming over national networks.

Honors for 'Arsenic'

BRUSSELS, Feb. 5.—Warners' "Arsenic and Old Lace" has been selected as the best motion picture shown in Belgium in 1946. WB has received the International Film Cup.

Attendance

(*Continued from page* 1)

clared that the competitive-bidding method of selling pictures, based on his company's experience to date, "has proven entirely satisfactory for all parties concerned." Although the bidding provisions of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit are not scheduled to become effective until July 1, M-G-M already has placed the system in effect in a number of situations.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and
Disc Recording Facilities

"Angel and the Badman"

(*Continued from page* 1)

Harry Carey, Bruce Cabot, Irene Rich and Lee Dixon. The plot spotlights the regeneration of a badman, whose gun has many notches and who, we learn, is not an especially sterling character morally, when he literally falls into the hands of a Quaker community settled somewhere on the fringes of America's West. Nursed back to health from a state of exhaustion and delirium after being wounded, Wayne learns quickly of the moral virtues to which his benefactors are consecrated.

Miss Russell displays the virtuosity and range of her acting ability as the love-smitten girl who is pitted against the multiplicity of factors operating upon Wayne, not the least of which is his deftness with the gun and a long-standing quarrel with Cabot. From the moment he realizes that he too is in love, Wayne abandons the use of his gun, although several times he is on the verge of avenging the death of his foster-father.

Bursts of action interspersed in the development of the plot help to maintain the pace. Performances are polished, with Wayne giving a capable characterization of the badman torn between vengeance and the pacifism of his love-interest. However, if credit is due any one individual for contributing to the dramatic quality of the picture, Miss Russell must assuredly be singled out. Photography, by Archie J. Stout, is good. James Edward Grant wrote and directed. Wayne produced.

Running time, 100 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 15.

IRVING KAPLAN

IATSE Memorandum Denounces CSU

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—The Conference of Studio Unions was denounced as a "rump organization without standing in the American Federation of Labor" and its leaders charged with "attempting to capture or destroy other AFL unions" in a four-page communication dispatched to all AFL organizations in the United States today by the IATSE and signed by 14 IATSE locals and eight others.

After citing studio contracts as the "finest trade union agreements in America" the communication declares that a "very small group of striking unions are now trying to gain sympathy for themselves by circulating throughout America, particularly in the labor press, statements which seek to place us in the position of collaborating with the Motion Picture Association in an alleged attempt to break other unions. The facts do not support any part of this unfounded propaganda."

UA Sales Meets

(*Continued from page* 1)

the four-day meetings in each instance. District managers, branch managers and all salesmen from each branch will attend. The Buffalo conference will be for staffs of the New York, Buffalo, Canadian and New England districts at the Statler Hotel, there. Eastern sales manager Edward M. Schnitzer will preside; assisted by district managers Jack Ellis and Clayton Eastman, and Canadian manager Charles S. Chaplin. Schnitzer's assistant, Abe Dickstein, will also be on hand.

Schnitzer will again preside over the Pittsburgh meeting at the William Penn Hotel, assisted by district managers Mark N. Silver and Moe Dudelson. That session will combine the Pennsylvania-Washington and the Central districts.

At the El Paso meeting, Western sales chief Maury Orr will preside, assisted by district managers Fred M. Jack and W. E. Callaway. Orr will again preside at the Chicago conference. District managers Rud Lohrenz and C. W. Allen will assist at that time.

The various meetings will be devoted to discussions of sales policy. Ten completed pictures on UA's current schedule will be screened.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing there and, under the Dec. 31 decree, liquidation of tribunals without cases pending before them would have to be begun not later than March 31. The court provided for a 60-day stay of its decree and an additional 30 days in the event of an appeal. Appeals from the decree now are a certainty.

Prior to yesterday only nine local tribunals had complaints pending which would defer liquidation of those boards until such time as the cases were terminated. Albany now becomes the tenth such tribunal.

There has been some wholly unsubstantiated speculation whether exhibitors would file complaints in tribunals lacking them, where such complaints, for one reason or another, have been held in abeyance pending further developments tending to clarify the New York decree and the future of industry arbitration. Many exhibitors now feel that arbitration will be vastly more important under the decree than it has been heretofore and the filing of cases in tribunals without them would automatically prolong the lives of such boards.

The New York Federal court strongly recommended that the industry continue an arbitration system to hold costly and time-consuming litigation under the decree to a minimum. Exhibitor sentiment in favor of continued arbitration is expected to crystalize at a national meeting of independent exhibitors in New York, March 10 and 11, called by Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America at which arbitration and a motion picture forum to hear and attempt to resolve exhibitor-distributor grievances will be the principal subjects of discussion.

Yesterday's case at Albany was brought by the Adirondack Theatre Corp., operator of the Palace at Lake Placid. It alleges unreasonable clearance over it is granted to Schine's Pontiac at Saranac Lake by Paramount, M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and RKO Radio. It is subject to 14 days' clearance in favor of the Pontiac, except during the winter sports season and summer months. The Palace seeks reduction or elimination of the clearance.

Recommends Use of Theatres as Schools

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 5.—"Many exhibitors, especially those in small towns and in neighborhoods, might arrange with teachers for the use of their theatres one or two mornings a week," Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana members were told, in an organization bulletin.

"This would be a solid contribution to their community and a great source of good will to the exhibitor who is interested in public relations. Plus this, he will be in a position to advise educators and block the entry of opportunists, who will do him harm," it declares.

United California Plans First Film

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—United California Productions will star Robert Cummings, one of its three owners, in its first production, "Joe MacBeth." The story was written by Philip Yourdan, another partner in the new independent. Eugene Frenke, the third member of the outfit, says that United Artists will distribute the first picture, although UA denies that any agreement has been reached with United California.

To Observe 25th Year

NEWARK, Feb. 5.—A month-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Rivoli Theatre here, owned by Lewis and George Gold, will get under way next Monday evening from the stage of the theatre with Mayor Murphy and Frederick Bretenbach, who was mayor of Newark when the house first opened, to initiate the ceremonies. Stars of the stage and screen will participate, according to David J. Kane, manager of the theatre, who is in charge of arrangements.

Hollywood Theatre Sale

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Sidney Pink, operator of the Mayan Theatre, in association with Paul Schriebman, has purchased the Las Palmas Theatre, here, for a reported $75,000. The theatre, now used for stage shows, will be remodeled and foreign art films will be shown.

Pelegrine—The Winnah!

The Paramount home office dramatic society probably shall go through life known as the Para-Troupers. Louis Pelegrine, trade press contact, is responsible, having contributed that winning name in a contest conducted by the company.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Jan. 11	BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—69 mins. (Rev. 12/20/46)	(Jan. Releases) 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY M—135 mins. (710) (Rev. 11/13/46) GALLANT BESS (Color) (Rev. 9/4/46) THE MIGHTY McGURK (Rev. 11/27/46) LADY IN THE LAKE (Rev. 11/27/46)	RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL Gilbert Roland O—61 mins.	CROSS MY HEART Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts C—83 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	LIGHTHOUSE John Litel June Lang BORN TO SPEED Johnny Sands	THE PILGRIM LADY Lynne Roerts Warren Douglas C—67 mins. (Rev. 1/22/47)	(Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46) (Liberty Special) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE James Stewart Donna Reed D—130 mins. (781) (Rev. 12/19/46)	(Jan. Releases) RAZOR'S EDGE (Rev. 11/20/46) THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (Color) (Rev. 12/31/46) 13 RUE MADELEINE (Rev. 12/17/46) (Reissue) STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE (Reissue) LES MISERABLES Fredric March Charles Laughton		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46) I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou M—93 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47) THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	THE MAN I LOVE Ida Lupino Robert Alda D—96 mins. (611) (Rev. 12/24/46)
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)		RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins.		WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean						
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.		VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser M—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Eagle-Lion) IT'S A JOKE, SON Kenny Delmar Una Merkel C—64 mins. (Rev. 1/21/47)	TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67					HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46) MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46) BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)			(Eagle-Lion) BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47) THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild D—72 mins. ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)	(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	(Feb. Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47) SMASH-UP—THE STORY OF A WOMAN Susan Hayward Lee Bowman	
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)		RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John		SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)		(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D—100 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.		VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean	ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich D	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)				
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	RETURN OF RIN-TIN-TIN (Color) UNTAMED FURY Mikel Conrad	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins. THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)				NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1		(March Releases) (Special) THE YEARLING (Color) Gregory Peck Jane Wyman D—134 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)	THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		PHILO VANCE RETURNS Alan Curtis D THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont D		VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)				
Mar. 8				EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)				(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum
Mar. 15		BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker									
Mar. 22				SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard	PHILO VANCE'S VICTORY WEST TO GLORY						

[*Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) [illegible]na. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.)* Motion Picture Daily *Revie[illegible]ate.*]

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 27 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1947 TEN CENTS

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Trade Pacts Vital to U.S. Films: MPA

Johnston States Views At Reciprocity Hearing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. — The American motion picture industry frankly recognizes that the best way of securing relief from the restrictions imposed upon its product by foreign governments "is through the system of reciprocal bargaining provided for in the trade agreements act," Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, told the Committee on Reciprocity Information at a hearing here today.

Eric Johnston

Johnston unqualifiedly en-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Cite Film Barriers For Geneva Meeting

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—A document outlining industry objections to barriers imposed upon American films in 11 of the 18 countries to meet at the Geneva Trade Conference will be presented to the Department of State by the Motion Picture Association, Eric Johnston, MPA president, said today.

This will be the first time the industry has compiled an analysis of trade barriers and submitted it to the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Ambassador Gardner Stricken Suddenly

O. Max Gardner, 64, recently appointed United States Ambassador to Britain, died suddenly yesterday morning in the St. Regis Hotel here on the eve of his departure for London to assume his new post. Death was due to coronary thrombosis.

Gardner had been guest of honor at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria on Wednesday at which Eric Johnston was host and which was attended by top executives of all major motion picture companies.

PRC Owns All Outlets Now

Producers Releasing Corp. has purchased from Lloyd V. Lamb what were the company's two remaining franchise-owned exchanges in Seattle and Portland, thereby becoming sole owner of its 31 domestic exchanges, Harry H. Thomas, PRC president, announced yesterday. Completion of the deal with Lamb, Thomas said, fulfills the plan of Pathe Industries, PRC's parent company, which is controlled by Robert R. Young.

Wally Rucker and Ralph Amacher, who formerly represented M-G-M in the Northwest, have been named branch managers of the Seattle and Portland exchanges, respectively. Although Lamb's future plans are as yet undisclosed, many of the original franchise holders have remained with PRC in executive capacities.

PRC said yesterday that eventually it plans to enter distribution in Latin America, the Philippines, and the Far East.

Lloyd L. Lind, vice-president of Producers Releasing Corp., left New York last night for a business trip to Canada, where PRC product is handled by franchise holders.

Australians Seek Strict Censorship

By CLIFF HOLT

SYDNEY, Feb. 1 (By Airmail).—Adoption of measures for stricter film censorship in Australia, as a result of mounting demands by various social organizations, has led to the calling of the first Commonwealth conference of this country's independents for this month.

Proposed by the Queensland Exhibitors' Association, the conference will consider such problems as the controversy arising over the question of whether film rentals are a matter for

(*Continued on page 6*)

Crouch, Others Are Promoted by Loew's

Orville Crouch, manager of Loew's State, St. Louis, has been named assistant to Carter Barron in Loew's Eastern division by Joseph R. Vogl, vice-president in charge of Loew theatres. Crouch succeeds Martin Burnett, who becomes midwestern division manager.

The St. Louis post will be assumed by Russ Bovim, now manager of Loew's Midland, Kansas City. Howard Burkhardt of Loew's State, Cleveland, will move to the Kansas City spot. He will be succeeded by Maurice Drucker, now manager of Loew's Ohio, Cleveland.

Senate Body Votes Excise Extension

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Senate Finance Committee today approved the extension of wartime excise taxes, including the Federal admission tax, for an indefinite period. The measure, requested by President Truman, already has been passed by the House. Proposals for modification of the taxes were not accepted by the Finance Committee, but they may be considered on the floor of the Senate if they can be worked out in a manner acceptable to the Treasury, according to Sen. Robert Taft (Ohio), member of the Committee.

AFL Chiefs Adopt SAG's Arbitration

MIAMI, Feb. 6.—The American Federation of Labor Executive Council, at the final session of its meeting here, placed itself squarely behind the Screen Actors Guild's arbitration tribunal plan to eliminate intra-union jurisdictional strikes, with the expressed determination to apply the SAG proposal to other industries.

The SAG's plan had been put forth at the October AFL convention and as the meeting here got under way last week SAG president Robert Montgomery by wire strongly urged AFL president William Green and the other executive council members to set the plan in motion.

The initial move in this connection calls for Green to contact every national and international AFL union to enlist their efforts to set up arbitration tribunals in their industries along the lines announced by President Truman last Saturday for the building and construction industry.

The absence of arbitration tribunal operations has been one of the principal obstacles to the solution of the present Hollywood jurisdictional strike.

William Fadiman Is Named Schary's Aide

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—William Fadiman, who recently resigned as M-G-M story department head, will join RKO Radio as executive assistant to Dore Schary, newly-named vice-president in charge of production, on March 1.

Fadiman's executive duties will include his having charge of all story writers.

First Decree Appeal Filed By Columbia

Single Sales Hit, Bidding Claimed Unconstitutional

By TOM LOY

First appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit was filed in Federal District Court here yesterday by Columbia, through attorney Louis Frohlich of the firm of Schwartz and Frohlich.

Columbia's appeal is limited to three paragraphs of Section II of the decree: Paragraph 7, which enjoins a distributor from conditioning the license for one feature upon the licensee's taking one or more other features; Paragraph 8, which sets up a system of competitive bidding, and Paragraph 9, which bans "arbitrarily refusing" to license a feature on a run selected by an exhibitor instead of licensing it to a competitor on such run.

Asking that these provisions of the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Ramsaye, Wever Address AMPA

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers yesterday paid tribute to the inventiveness of Thomas Alva Edison, whose centennial will be observed next Tuesday.

Terry Ramsaye, editor of *Motion Picture Herald* and of *Fame*, spoke briefly of his association with Edison and the products of his genius, and related anecdotes by way of pointing out that "for all his greatness, he was a

(*Continued on page 7*)

Rank's 'Expectations' Goes to Music Hall

J. Arthur Rank's Cineguild production of the Charles Dickens novel, "Great Expectations," has been booked by Radio City Music Hall, G. S. Eyssell, president and managing director of the Hall, announced yesterday.

The film, distributed here by Universal-International, is the first Rank film to receive a Music Hall booking. The opening, some time in the late spring, will be the American premiere of the picture.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

ED SCOFIELD and Sam Taylor have formed "Four Leaf Clover Pictures," in Hollywood, and in so doing they have addressed a long resolution with the regulation "whereases," which they have addressed to "Motion picture producers, executives and all others concerned (and you will be)," so they say: "Whereas the screen is a living thing and like all organic life, requires new cells to promote growth, and Whereas the undersigned have the utmost respect for many of the older producers and are not asking them to step out, but merely to move over a bit and make room for some new blood, and Whereas the undersigned believe that a good story is worth more than marble stairs, sparkling chandeliers, and other glittering impediments, and Whereas despite the skill of the studio backdrop painters, the undersigned believe that God is still the greatest scenic designer and that wherever possible the major portion of photography should be filmed on or against authentic locale and background in realty," etc., etc.

▽

We suppose that film companies, like steamships, have an endearing quality that should entitle them to be referred to in the feminine gender. RKO lawyer William J. Donovan thinks so anyway.

Appearing, the other day, in behalf of the company at a New York Federal Court trust suit hearing of a motion to ease the theatre-expansion ban in the consent decree, General Donovan told the three presiding judges that competition may prompt RKO to seek to add to *her* 102 theatres, because *she* has none in several important sections of the country. The judges appeared to be touched by the plea made in behalf of the old girl.

▽

India will not permit any Hollywood or other motion picture to show a cow, sacred or otherwise.

▽

Aside to Hollywood studio research authenticators: The Chinese Minister of National Defense has just decreed that hereafter no automobile in China may be painted green except military autos, and none may be painted white except hospital vehicles.

▽

A Federal Courthouse reporter covering the case involving Benjamin Brodie and the New York Miami Theatre, on charges of showing "Guilty Parents," telephoned the story to his news desk and, apparent misunderstanding, reported the title of the picture as "Filthy Parents"!

▽

Hope was a-kindled anew in the breasts of those of the Fourth Estate from this week's issuance of a directive to members of the United Lutheran Church in America that they start praying for the press! Editors and publishers were mentioned especially.

Personal Mention

CURTIS MITCHELL, Paramount director of advertising-publicity-exploitation, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

CLIFFORD JEAPES, director of J. Arthur Rank British Pictorial Productions and Film Laboratories, and president of the Laboratory Association of England, is in New York from London. He will leave for the Coast shortly.

•

WILLIAM A. HOSIE, Eastern publicity representative for Walt Disney Productions, will be married Sunday to MARTHA LUND of Greenwich, Conn. The couple will honeymoon in the South, returning Feb. 24.

•

DONALD NELSON, Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers president, will participate in the Chicago Round Table radio program on Sunday. The subject: "How Can We Avoid Economic Collapse."

•

CLAIRE BRAGER, daughter of LOUIS R. BRAGER, Warner Theatres executive, will be married to HOWARD M. [illegible]LER, April 13 at the Hampshire House, New York.

•

LOU BRAGER, Warner real estate department executive, tomorrow will celebrate his 25th year of service with the Warner and former First National organizations.

•

JACK KEEGAN, of Northio Theatres, Cincinnati, and MRS KEEGAN, are parents of a baby girl, born in that city Tuesday.

•

GEORGE STEVENS, producer- director and co-owner of Liberty Films, has returned to the Coast from New York.

•

SIR AUBREY SMITH will sail for England March 22 on the *Queen Elizabeth*. He will appear in two films for SIR ALEXANDER KORDA.

•

S. BARRET MCCORMICK, RKO Radio director of advertising-publicity, will leave New York today for a three-week stay on the Coast.

•

HERMAN GELBER, president of Moving Picture Machine Operators' Local 306, here, became a grandfather recently.

•

ARTHUR SACHSON, general sales manager for Samuel Goldwyn Productions, left New York yesterday for a 10-day stay on the Coast.

•

TONY STERN, Warner film buyer in Cleveland, will undergo a gall bladder operation at Mt. Sinai Hospital, here, on Monday.

•

BERT SCHOONMAKER, Toledo theatre owner, and MRS. SCHOONMAKER, have left for a month's fishing trip in Mexico.

•

JULES LEVEY, United Artists producer, has arrived here from the Coast for a three-week visit.

•

ALBERT CORNFIELD, 20th Century-Fox Internationals' foreign sales supervisor, will leave New York this weekend for a month's tour of Latin-America.

•

WILLIAM J. HEINEMAN, general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank division of Universal, is in Chicago from New York. B. G. KRANZE, assistant general sales manager, is in Detroit.

•

W. A. FINNEY, Loew's Southern division manager, Atlanta, will resign Feb. 10 because of ill health. He will be succeeded by ALLEN SPARROW, formerly with the company at Columbus, O.

•

ALICE MCCORD, of M-G-M's Memphis office staff, and LOUIS N. BEAL, vice-president of the Fay Equipment Co., will be married in that city on Feb. 15.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern exchanges, has returned to Atlanta from Jacksonville.

•

RALPH CARTER, formerly of the Liberty Theatre, Oklahoma City, is the new manager of the Warner Theatre, Memphis.

•

CUS EYSSELL, managing director of Radio City Music Hall, who is visiting in Kansas City, will return here in about two weeks.

•

WILLIAM HUTT, Atlanta representative for National Theatre Supply, and MRS. HUTT are the parents of a boy.

•

SAM SHAPIN, Warner home office representative, is visiting in Salt Lake City.

•

C. R. WADE, Universal branch manager, Salt Lake City, is a Los Angeles visitor.

•

HARRY H. THOMAS, Producers Releasing Corp. president, was a recent visitor in Salt Lake City.

•

RICHARD HILL, Republic's Salt Lake City booker, and MRS. HILL, are parents of a baby girl born there recently.

•

HELEN O'TOOLE of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America New York office is on the sick list.

•

HARRY MARCUS of Republic International has returned to his office here after a 12-week illness.

•

CAROL REED, Brtish director, has arrived here from London, en route to Hollywood.

•

GLYNIS JOHNS, British actress, has arrived in New York from London, en route to the Coast.

•

DON HENDERSON, 20th-Fox treasurer, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

WILFRED EADIE, 20th-Fox comptroller, is expected to return here from Hollywood next week.

Press to Inspect Plant

A. E. Meyer, sales manager of International Projector Corp., will be host to representatives of the press on Monday afternoon, Feb. 17, during an inspection of International's new plant in Bloomfield, N. J.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
BING CROSBY
FRED ASTAIRE
JOAN CAULFIELD
Irving Berlin's
'BLUE SKIES'
In TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
WILBUR EVANS
PIERRE D'ANGELO & VANYA
Extra!
JESSE BLOCK
with EVE SULLY

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN • SONNY TUFTS
in
"EASY COME EASY GO"
PARAMOUNT - TIMES SQUARE
In Person
THE INK SPOTS
ELLA FITZGERALD
TIP TAP & TOE
STUMP & STUMPY
Extra!
COOTIE WILLIAMS
His Trumpet & His Orchestra
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND
BARBARA STANWYCK
BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER
B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

JAMES CAGNEY in
"13 RUE MADELEINE"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE — GRACIE FIELDS
Extra! ARTHUR BLAKE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Hyman Favors Less Elaborate 1st-Runs

The unavailability in many instances of principal first-run outlets is minimized as a problem for the independent producer by Louis Hyman, vice-president and general sales manager of Sol Lesser Productions, who points to the smaller "showcase" houses as the source of both added revenue and prestige for a film of merit.

Back from London, where he laid the groundwork for "The Red House" bookings, Hyman reasons that in a theatre such as New York's Roxy, the film alone is not the box-office attraction, since it has the support of a stage show, thus cutting a producer's revenue, he states.

In contrast to this is the less-established Globe, a smaller house without vaudeville, where, Hyman asserts, product gains more in prestige since it alone sells tickets. Furthermore, he adds, the run of a film is based solely on its drawing power and the distributor's income can scale up to 75 per cent.

Hyman recalled one booking in Montreal of "Stage Door Canteen," which he set forth as evidence supporting his views. Here the film played 17 weeks at the Orpheum Theatre, with the distributor netting $28,000. If the film had played a larger Famous Players house, he said, the run probably would have been only a few weeks, with a $5,000 rental. Hyman will leave for the Coast next week.

Winston-Salem Votes For Sunday Pictures

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Feb. 6.—Voters here have approved a proposition to amend the "blue" laws of this city to allow motion pictures and athletic contests on Sunday.

The board of aldermen reported that it will be bound by the results of the election, which was a straw vote. Mayor George D. Lentz said the board probably will take up the question of amending the laws on Feb. 18.

Continue 'Polio' Drive

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 6.—The campaign for funds for the Infantile Paralysis Foundation, in Jackson County, in which Kansas City is located, and in Wyandotte, Kan., containing Kansas City, Kan., has been continued for another week because the goal has not been reached.

New Film Importer

Duke International Corp., new import-export organization, here, says it has established liaison with French producers, and will include in its operations the distribution of foreign films in the U. S. The company's initial import will be "Voyage Surprise," a French comedy.

Randforce Ups Alper

Murray Alper, who has been manager of Randforce Amusement's Meserole Theatre, Brooklyn, has been promoted to district manager of the circuit's Richmond Hill district, functioning under the supervision of division manager Harry Davey, it was announced yesterday by Emanuel Frisch. John La Barbara, Lefferts Theatre manager, will replace Alper at the Meserole.

U. A. Will Screen 10 At Sales Meetings

United Artists salesmen will view 10 of the company's new pictures at the four forthcoming sales conferences in Buffalo, Pittsburgh, El Paso and Chicago which were reported yesterday.

The 10 productions and their producers are: "Carnegie Hall," Federal Films; "The Macomber Affair," Benedict Bogeaus; "Dishonored Lady," Hunt Stromberg; "Ramrod," Harry Sherman-Enterprise; "The Other Love," David Lewis-Enterprise; "The Fabulous Dorseys," Charles R. Rogers; "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock," California Pictures; "New Orleans," Jules Levey; "The Private Affairs of Bel Ami," Loew-Lewin; "Fun on a Weekend," Andrew Stone.

Universal Meeting In Chicago Today

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—The second in a series of three Universal-International sales meetings will open here tomorrow, concentrating on selling plans for "The Egg and I." The first meeting was held in San Francisco last week. W. A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, is expected to announce "Egg" distribution details at the third meeting, to be held in New York later.

2nd Bill Introduced On Public Assemblies

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 6.—Assemblyman John Wadlin has introduced a companion bill to Senator William Condon's amending the labor law relating to places of public assembly. Both are chairmen of committees to which the measure referred.

It defines a "place of public assembly" to include: A theatre, moving picture house, any structure, enclosure, floor or portion of any structure" where 100 or more persons may assemble for such purpose as amusement, recreation, "dining, drinking or dancing."

Stars Will Feature Photo Ball Tonight

Scores of screen, stage and radio stars have promised to be on hand for the 18th annual entertainment and dance of the Press Photographers Association of New York, being held tonight at the Waldorf-Astoria.

New Laffmovie House

Berk and Krumgold, theatre realty specialists, here, have completed a long term lease for the Vogue Theatre, Baltimore. The Vogue Theatre was acquired for the Laffmovie interests of New York, headed by James Mage, and the policy of the theatre has been changed to conform to the "Laffmovie" policy which the lessees are now operating in a number of key cities throughout the East. Substantial alterations and rehabilitation is in progress.

Kohan in New Post

OMAHA, Feb. 6.—Allan Kohan, former exploiteer for Warner Brothers here, has been appointed general manager of advertising, publicity and exploitation for R. D. Goldberg Theatres in this city. Donald Walker, of Kansas City, has been shifted to Omaha to succeed Kohan.

MMPTA to Aid in 'Brotherhood' Drive

Through exhibition of David O. Seiznick's featurette on brotherhood as part of newsreels, and a song trailer featuring Irving Berlin's "Help Me to Help My Neighbor," theatres belonging to the Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association have pledged themselves to participate in this year's campaign for "American Brotherhood Week," Feb. 16-23, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Fred J. Schwartz, MMPTA president, announced yesterday.

The Berlin song trailer is being made available by National Screen Service, which also is handling distribution of pledge blanks to be circulated among theatre staff members and patrons.

Expanding the scope of the drive, a committee headed by Harry Greenman plans to enlist Broadway theatres in the campaign. Others on the committee are: Gus Eyssell, Bob Weitman, Monty Salmon, A. J. Balaban, Zeb Epstein and Irving Lesser.

The motion picture division of the "Brotherhood" campaign is headed by Spyros P. Skouras, national chairman, with Jack Kirsch, Ted Gamble and Fred Wehrenberg, co-chairmen. Tom Connors is chairman of the distributors' committee, and Robert Coyne is national campaign director.

Denver Meeting to Launch Allied Unit

DENVER, Feb. 6.—John M. Wolfberg of the Broadway Theatre here, has called a meeting of independent exhibitors of the Rocky Mountain area, to be held at the Brown Palace Hotel, March 25-26, to consider the advisability of organizing an exhibitor unit to be affiliated with Allied States.

Wolfberg has made arrangements for the attendance at the meeting of H. A. Cole, Dallas; Sidney E. Samuelson, Philadelphia, and Trueman T. Rembusch Indiana, all of national Allied.

Burkhardt Transferred

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6.—Howard Burkhardt, manager of Loew's State Theatre for the past four years and with the company for 15 years, has been transferred to Kansas City as manager of Loew's Midland. Maurice Drucker goes from Loew's Ohio to the State, succeeding Burkhardt, and Vaughan O'Neill comes in from the East to take over the Ohio. Martin Gallagher, assistant manager at the State, goes to Loew's Jersey City Theatre.

Bernerd to Lexington

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Jeffrey Bernerd, Monogram producer, will leave Hollywood May 1 for Lexington, Ky., taking with him the first release print of his recently completed Cinecolor film, "Black Gold" based on the Kentucky Derby of 1924. The picture will be given its world premiere in that city during Derby Week. From Lexington, Bernerd will proceed to New York and will sail shortly afterward for England, where he will spend several weeks in securing location scenes for his next Monogram film, "The Maze."

Film Songwriter Is Named in Red Probe

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Communistic activity in the industry took the spotlight in the Un-American Activities Committee hearing here today as the name of Hans Eisler, brother of the alleged chief Russian agent in the United States, was named as being connected with the Communist party. He is said to be working as a song writer for a major film company in Hollywood.

Eisler's FBI folder is being procured to determine what company he is with on the Coast. Hearings were held today on Gerhart Eisler, who refused to testify under oath. Their sister took the stand and called both of the Eisler brothers "Commies."

Radio Writers May Vote Strike Action

The four national radio networks are facing the possibility of strike action by the Radio Writers Guild in the event a time and place for negotiation of new demands are not set by the end of this month.

Roy Langham, president of the union has demanded that network presidents arrange for the negotiations not later than Feb. 28, with the threat of a strike poll of the 1,500 members if they do not comply.

Eifert Named Head of Cinema Club in Ohio

CINCINNATI, Feb. 6.—John Eifert, Warner salesman, has been elected president of the Cinema Club of Cincinnati, succeeding Ross Williams of United Artists. Gene Tunik, RKO Radio, was named vice-president, and Peter Niland, Columbia Pictures, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. An installation dinner will be held on April 7, for which the committee consists of Frank Schreiber, Niland and Tunik.

The club, which is affiliated with the national Coliseum of Motion Picture Salesmen, is formulating plans to enlist film exchange salesmen from other cities as members of the local unit.

Cleveland Group Honors Schwartz

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6.—Members of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association this week gave a surprise testimonial dinner to Ernest Schwartz, who was reelected to serve his 14th term as association president. Following the dinner, he was presented with a Buick automobile.

A. Vanduesen Dies

ALBANY, Feb. 6.—Abram Vanduesen, veteran office manager and head booker for RKO-Radio, died Wednesday night at St. Peter's Hospital here following an operation performed last Saturday. Vanduesen was with RKO-Radio and other companies for nearly 25 years. He is survived by his widow, son and a married daughter. Funeral services will be held Saturday.

Film Supply Note

CINCINNATI, Feb. 6.—Northio Theatres, Paramount subsidiary, has inaugurated a double bill policy at all of its Hamilton and Middletown, Ohio, theatres, which previously played single bills for first-run product and dual programs only for subsequent runs.

Frank Capra and Jimmy

Stewart do it again...

VOL

Word-of-mouth raves, enthusiastic newspaper editorials, radio tributes and top audience enjoyment are zooming grosses for long runs everywhere on "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"...7th week in New York; 6th week Chicago and Minneapolis; 5th week Kansas City, Los Angeles (2 houses) and St. Paul; 4th week Detroit, San Francisco, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Milwaukee! ... ALL early engagements PROVE that here is THE BIG SHOW FOR EXTENDED PLAYING TIME!

LIBERTY FILMS INC Presents

JIMMY STEWART and DONNA REED

in FRANK CAPRA'S

"It's a Wonderful Life"

with LIONEL BARRYMORE

THOMAS MITCHELL • HENRY TRAVERS

BEULAH BONDI • WARD BOND • FRANK FAYLEN • GLORIA GRAHAME

Produced and Directed by FRANK CAPRA

Released by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

Screen Play by FRANCES GOODRICH, ALBERT HACKETT, FRANK CAPRA
Additional Scenes by JO SWERLING • From a story by PHILIP VAN DOREN STERN

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 6

JOHN BRAHM, who directed such spine-chilling melodramas as "The Lodger" and "Hangover Square," has been borrowed by Universal-International from RKO Radio to direct "Singapore," original by Seton I. Miller, described as a modern action drama of intrigue laid against an oriental background. Fred MacMurray is set for the lead, and the picture will be Jerry Bresler's second production assignment for U-I.

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Lew Kerner, executive talent director for Samuel Goldwyn, has had his contract extended. . . . Irving Bacon has been engaged for a role in Clarion Productions' "Albuquerque," now being filmed in color for Paramount release.

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Armand Schaefer, president of the newly-formed Gene Autry Productions, has closed a deal with Julian Zimet for purchase of the latter's Western story, "The Bar B Stallion," to serve as a starring vehicle for Autry. . . . Byron Haskin, who has been associated with Hal Wallis as a production aide since the inception of Wallis' producing company in 1944, has been signed to a long-term directorial contract, the result of his handling the director chores on "I Walk Alone." The film will be released through Paramount.

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Lloyd Bacon has been assigned to direct "Nightmare Alley," film version of William Lindsay Gresham's novel which George Jessel will produce for 20th Century-Fox. . . . James Burkett, Monogram producer, will leave shortly for England, where he will supervise filming of backgrounds for "The Highwayman," narrative poem by Alfred Noyes, in the exact locale in which the story is laid. . . . Gene Tierney has had her 20th Century-Fox contract extended.

•

Charles Boyer has been signed to a long-term contract by Enterprise. His first film under the new arrangement will be an untitled original to be produced and directed by Lewis Milestone. . . . Sally Benson, noted for her short stories, has been signed by 20th Century-Fox to a writing contract. She is currently preparing the screenplay of "Britannia Mews" for producer William Perlberg.

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"Royal," three-year-old American-bred stallion, regarded by Hollywood handlers as the most intelligent equine performer in the business, will have a prominent part in the Columbia comedy, "Major Denning's Trust Estate." The colt's most recent film assignments have been in "King of the Wild Horses," at the same studio, and "Black Gold," at Monogram. . . . Peter Perkins, 25-year-old veteran who survived the infamous Bataan death march, has been signed to an acting contract by Vanguard Films.

•

Samuel Goldwyn has engaged Elsa Lanchester for a featured role in "The Bishop's Wife." . . . Anne Baxter, who scored in "The Razor's Edge," has had her 20th Century-Fox contract renewed.

CSU Hits Letters To AFL Locals

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—In a statement commenting on the letters sent all American Federation of Labor locals in this country yesterday by the IATSE and eight other non-striking unions, the Conference of Studio Unions said today that it was "interesting that the unions which blasted locked-out studio workers speak up at a time when public pressure is being severely felt by producers. Film workers in Paris are preparing to boycott American films and Mexican film workers are mobilizing against the union-smashing tactics of United States film makers."

The CSU statement added that the "possibility of a world-wide boycott through the World Federation of Trade Unions inspires Hollywood producers to speak up through the medium of unions whose leadership they influence or wholly control."

Navy Cites Columbia

A Navy "Certificate of Achievement" will be awarded Columbia Pictures today at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Nina Foch, actress, will accept for the company. The presentation is to be made by Rear Admiral F. E. M. Whiting, Commandant, U. S. Naval Base, here. The award is for aid to the Navy Motion Picture Service throughout the war.

$250,000 Title Suit

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6.—Mrs. Fay Ehlert, wife of M. H. Ehlert, Chilean Consul in Chicago, has filed a suit in the Court of Common Pleas here for $250,000 against Loew's and M-G-M, alleging that the title of the company's "Undercurrent" belongs to her by virtue of her one-act play of the same name which has been produced in the U. S. and Canada.

Tradeshow for 'Daughter'

RKO Radio has scheduled trade screenings of "The Farmer's Daughter" for Tuesday, Feb. 18 in 28 exchange centers. It will be shown at the Rhodes Theatre, Atlanta, and the Uptown, Des Moines, on Feb. 19. A New Orleans screening will take place in the Circle Theatre on Monday, Feb. 24.

Plunkett Gets Post

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Matt Plunkett, formerly assistant manager at the Palace Theatre, who has been temporarily filling the post of publicity director for the Palace and RKO's Grand, following the resignation of Milton Woodward several months ago to enter his own business, has been officially appointed to the publicity post for both theatres.

McGarrett in New Post

George McGarrett has jointed Foote Cone and Belding to handle radio operations on the Lucky Strike account. McGarrett had been with Young and Rubicam for eight years as a radio director-producer, production supervisor, program manager, and recently as an account executive.

Minsky Leaves 20th-Fox

Howard Minsky has resigned from 20th Century-Fox as manager of the Buffalo exchange, and William J. Kupper, general sales manager, has appointed William A. Graham as acting manager.

Trade Pacts Vital: MPA

(*Continued from page* 1)

dorsed the State Department's reciprocal trade pacts program, asserting it would be disastrous to the nation's future international role and to its domestic economy "to abandon it or shackle it at this time." His statements reflect the official position of the organized industry on the subject.

"I hope," Johnston said, "we approach the forthcoming Geneva Trade Conference in the same spirit of nonpartisanship which has guided our efforts in the areas of political cooperation."

"An expanding world trade with a minimum of governmental interference is essential to our system of competitive capitalism," Johnston continued. "We must recognize that freer trade is endangered by the trend toward the socialist state."

Referring specifically to the interest of the American film industry in the reciprocal trade program, Johnston said:

"There is a sharp rise in the nationalistic trend in film production in other countries. This takes two principal forms. Some nations have nationalized their industries. Others are putting up stronger fences against foreign product. Thus, at a time when the United States, in the interest of world recovery, is trying to unblock the channels of mutually advantageous international trade, we find an opposite tendency abroad.

"The Geneva Conference and America's hopes for expanded private trading will be imperiled if this trend continues.

"I wish to underscore that the American motion picture is perhaps the fastest growing export item. It is an important part of the American economy, and it has two great by-products: it helps to create a market for other American goods and it conveys American ideas and ideals. It is an integral part of our total trade and cannot be considered separately," Johnston said.

"The motion picture industry *is* a world industry—an international industry. It is one industry which should, in fact, be free of barriers both for practical and for cultural reasons.

"No leading motion picture producing country can operate profitably if its output is confined within a domestic market. The motion picture industry of *any* country depends upon mass markets—the world market.

Picture Conscious

"The American motion picture industry and all the others are competitive, of course, but they also are complementary. It is to the advantage of all producing countries to make more people in more areas of the world motion picture conscious. We all want more people seeing more pictures," he said.

"But if any motion picture producing country elects to build a wall around itself to fence out the products of another producing country, destruction of the mass market we *all* need is sure and certain. New restrictions against interchange of films regardless of their origin will set a pattern which other nations will inevitably follow, to the ultimate detriment of our motion picture industry and all others," Johnston concluded.

Cite Film Barriers

(*Continued from page* 1)

Government for consideration in the negotiation of treaties. The document will be completed within 10 days, the MPA office here reports.

Of the 18 nations expected to meet and agree on reciprocal trade pacts, 11 impose serious restrictions against our films ranging from quota limitations to state production monopolies. Nations with economic film barriers are: Australia, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, USSR and Great Britain. The most serious restrictions are in effect in Russia, Great Britain, China, and Czechoslovakia.

Johnston plans to appear before the House Ways and Means committee in the near future in support of the State Department's reciprocal trade programs. Rep. Knutson (Minn.), chairman of the committee, has announced that the trade program will be investigated by his group and that open hearings will be held to permit leaders of industry to testify.

'Henry V' in Richmond

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—J. Arthur Rank's "Henry V" is scheduled for a two-a-day showing at the WRVA Radio Theatre here, starting on Feb. 23. The advanced-admission run at the theatre, formerly known as the Lyric, will also serve to revive the house as a motion picture theatre.

Australians

(*Continued from page* 1)

State or Federal determination, exhibitor policy on admission prices, entertainment taxation, uniformity of rejection rights, screen advertising, training of projectionists and public agitation for control of juvenile attendance.

Strongest support for tightening of the censorship laws comes from the Teachers' Federation of New South Wales, which has urged the adoption of measures "to encourage beneficial features and combat undesirable ones." Other anti-film criticism has elicited a proposal for creation of a Royal Commission on children's films. The commission was advocated by Catholic Archbishop Duhig. Now divided between the states, control of film censorship in Australia will be wholly vested this year in the Commonwealth authorities with censorship laws governing imported films being drafted into a uniform code.

Fifth Richmond Station

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—Pending approval by the Federal Communications Commission of the proposed transmitter site, a new radio station, WFFV, hopes to go on the air sometime in March. The new station is composed almost entirely of World War II veterans, headed by Douglas H. Robertson. There will be no network ties and programs will consist of 90 per cent music and 10 per cent news, Robertson declared.

New Theatres

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—Neighborhood Theatres, Inc., will build an 800-car drive-in theatre about 10 miles from this city. Plans being drawn by architect A. O. Budina call for a number of seats for pedestrians in addition to the auto space. A summer opening is anticipated.

Also, an early opening is slated for the new Melrose Theatre in Norfolk. Seating over 950 people, it will be operated on a sub-run policy by Levine Theatres, present operators of the Elton, Rosna and Rosele.

$125,000 Remodeling Job For Newark, Ohio, House

NEWARK, O., Feb. 6.—Shea's Auditorium Theatre, opened in mid-Victorian days as this town's opera house, will be closed for 90 days, starting April 15, for remodeling at a cost of $125,000. The galleries and balcony will be removed, the lobby shortened, new booth and stage equipment installed and the seating capacity will be increased from 800 to 1,160. Also, a new marquee will be erected. E. C. Grainger, president of the circuit, was here recently from New York for conferences on the project with Dale F. Tysinger, manager of the Auditorium and Midland.

In Mansfield, a 750-car drive-in theatre is being built at a cost of $90,000 by Central Drive-In Theatres, Inc., of which Adolph Ochs is general manager.

The West Theatre, a new 750-seat house, is being constructed by the Solvenian Society in Barberton, O. A June opening is anticipated.

The new 600-seat Charve at Edgerton, O., opened recently.

Permits for Three Theatres In Massachusetts Cities

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Feb. 6.—The local zoning board of appeals has granted a petition of Harry Lazarus to operate a drive-in theatre to accommodate 500 cars.

John Georges of Lowell has obtained a drive-in theatre permit from the planning board and city council there.

In Newton Center, Allston Theatres, Inc., has received a permit to build a theatre on the Boston-Worcester highway.

Remodeled Tivoli Opens as The 'Rogers' in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 6.—Forman Rogers has opened the old Tivoli Theatre here under the name of the Rogers. An extensive remodeling job has been done.

In Gadsden, Ala., the Coosa Theatre has been opened by Ward Wright. A fourth house now is being constructed there by the Alga Theatre Corp. of Chipley, Ga., at a cost of $150,000; it will seat 1,000.

New Coast House Features 700 Rocking-Chair Seats

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—San Levin, head of San Francisco Theatres, plans to open his new Ritz Theatre here by November. The house will seat 1,400, with half the seats rocking chair loges. Levin also will equip his theatre for television.

Fox West Coast is building a 1,000-seater in Azusa, according to John Nylen, manager of the Lyric and Monrovia.

India Will Double Its 1,700 Theatres

The people of India, despite their poverty, have become more film-minded as a consequence of the war, M. C. Kapadia and S. N. Kotwal, executives of Evergreen Pictures, Ltd., Bombay, asserted here yesterday in explaining their estimate that the country's 1,700 theatres, only half of which are in good condition, will double in number when construction materials become available.

Kapadia and Kotwal are here for a six-month business-pleasure tour during which they hope to buy a large variety of theatre and film equipment. Evergreen Pictures, they point out, is the parent organization of several companies covering a wide latitude, from Prakash Pictures, which produces and distributes, to the importation, sale and installation of equipment.

The visitors said that India maintains no quota system on playing time because the low economic status of the Indian people has made the importation of British and American product unfeasible. However, Kotwal said they are interested in buying American action, serial and jungle films for Indian exhibition and that they are negotiating here with a major company for distribution in this country of three Indian pictures which will be dubbed here. Vijay Bhatt, director and one of the partners of Prakash Pictures, will be here in a month with prints of the films.

Isolated from any countries in which color processes are situated, Indian producers have displayed ingenuity by having prints hand-painted, Kapadia revealed. Emphasizing that this is a painstaking process which requires a great deal of time and labor, Kotwal said that it has become a practice to color in dance sequences in black-and-white films.

Kapadia and Kotwal will remain in New York about four weeks before making a tour of the U. S., with a visit to Hollywood.

Circuits Leave CITOA

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—Resignation of Golden State Theatres, T. and D. Jr. Enterprises, Westside Theatres and Nasser Brothers from the California Independent Theatre Owners Association was made known. Directors of the independent circuits would make no statement, but declared they would retain membership in the California Theatres Association.

New RKO Exchange

ATLANTA, Feb. 6.—RKO Radio has moved into its new exchange here. The building, which has all improvements including air-conditioning, was designed under the supervision of Hubert M. Lyons, exchange manager.

WGBS, Miami, to CBS

WGBS, Miami, will join Columbia Broadcasting on June 15, it is announced by Herbert V. Akerberg, CBS vice-president in charge of station relations.

Lewis Blumberg Named

Lewis Blumberg, son of Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, has been named general sales manager of Prestige Pictures.

First Appeal Filed

(Continued from page 1)

decree be reversed and that the case be remanded for such relief as the Supreme Court may deem fit and proper, the Columbia petition contends that the ruling of Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright is not justified by the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and deprives the company of property without due process of law, thus violating the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Columbia contends that block booking, which is known in the industry as "the licensing of pictures in groups or blocks at the beginning of the season," has received the sanction of courts "over a quarter of a century" and that there is no support in the trial record of this case for the New York judges' definition of block booking as "the practice of licensing, or offering for license, one feature, or group of features, upon condition that the exhibitor shall also license another feature or group of features released by the distributor during a given period."

Concerning competitive bidding, Columbia contends that, under the Sherman Act, the court is empowered only to enjoin and restrain illegal conduct. "There is nothing in the act which empowers the court to lay down a system of policing and regulation which either directly or indirectly places the defendant in a straitjacket and compels him to do business in the manner outlined by the court or get out of business," the petition declares, adding: "We are told that for all purposes the defendants' pictures must be put on the auction block, opened up to the highest bidder; that they cannot choose their customers, that they cannot even make their own terms for licensing their product. We believe this to be destructive of the principles of free enterprise, placing it within the power of the District Court to take over and conduct business according to its own conception and lights."

Claim Supported

Columbia's claim that the judgment violates the fifth amendment of the Constitution is supported by the statement that the decree "virtually transforms the appellants into public utilities. There was no evidence," the petition declares, "that the defendants were engaged in a business affected with a public interest, nor was there any finding to that effect. Public utilities may be told to sell their property to anyone who applies for it . . . but even Congress could not constitutionally impose the restrictions set forth in this decree."

The petition also questions "whether the District Court has the right to impinge upon the appellants' copyrights and the exclusive rights that are vested in them by such copyrights. The final decree restricts copyrights already existing of which the appellants are proprietors and all copyrights in motion pictures of which the appellants may in the future become proprietors," Columbia declares.

In an "Assignment of Errors" accompanying the petition, Columbia contends that the court erred in five of its findings of fact and one conclusion of law.

AMPA Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

most unpretentious fellow." Madeleine Edison Sloane, daughter of the inventor, recalled the early days of motion pictures when they were made at the Bronx studio of the old Edison Co. An experimental picture was produced in part on her front lawn, she remembered.

Deviating from the Edison theme, George D. Wever, promotion manager of *Life Magazine*, expressed considerable concern about a lack of knowledge of markets, how they should be approached through advertising, and the content of copy, on the part of experts in the field of promotion. "We have no known way of demonstrating that some more courageous and refreshing approach would cause an even louder clatter of quarters at box-offices and a rustle of checks in magazine advertising sales departments."

Wever subsequently drew attention to the readership of *Life*, declaring, "The audience of *Life* established by the Magazine Audience Group is 22,550,000 each week."

Rutgers Neilson, AMPA president, opened the meeting. Phil Williams, vice-president, acted as master of ceremonies, and paid tribute to film trade publications, citing the "sales promotion impact its advertising pages carry in launching new ideas and new productions."

Projectionist Stricken

UNION CITY, N. J., Feb. 6.—Tobias Ebramowicz, 49, projectionist at the Capitol Theatre here, died Tuesday of a heart attack while at work.

Red Cross Official Wants PCC Pact

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Commenting on yesterday's refusal of the Los Angeles Red Cross to accept a donation from the Permanent Charities Committee, William M. Jeffers, volunteer Red Cross chairman, said today that "material is being prepared that will be presented to national chairman O'Connor and the Central Committee, pointing out to them why in our opinion some arrangements must be reached with the PCC regarding future fund-raising campaigns."

Jeffers also said that, "Personally, I feel that the Red Cross should have accepted the donation."

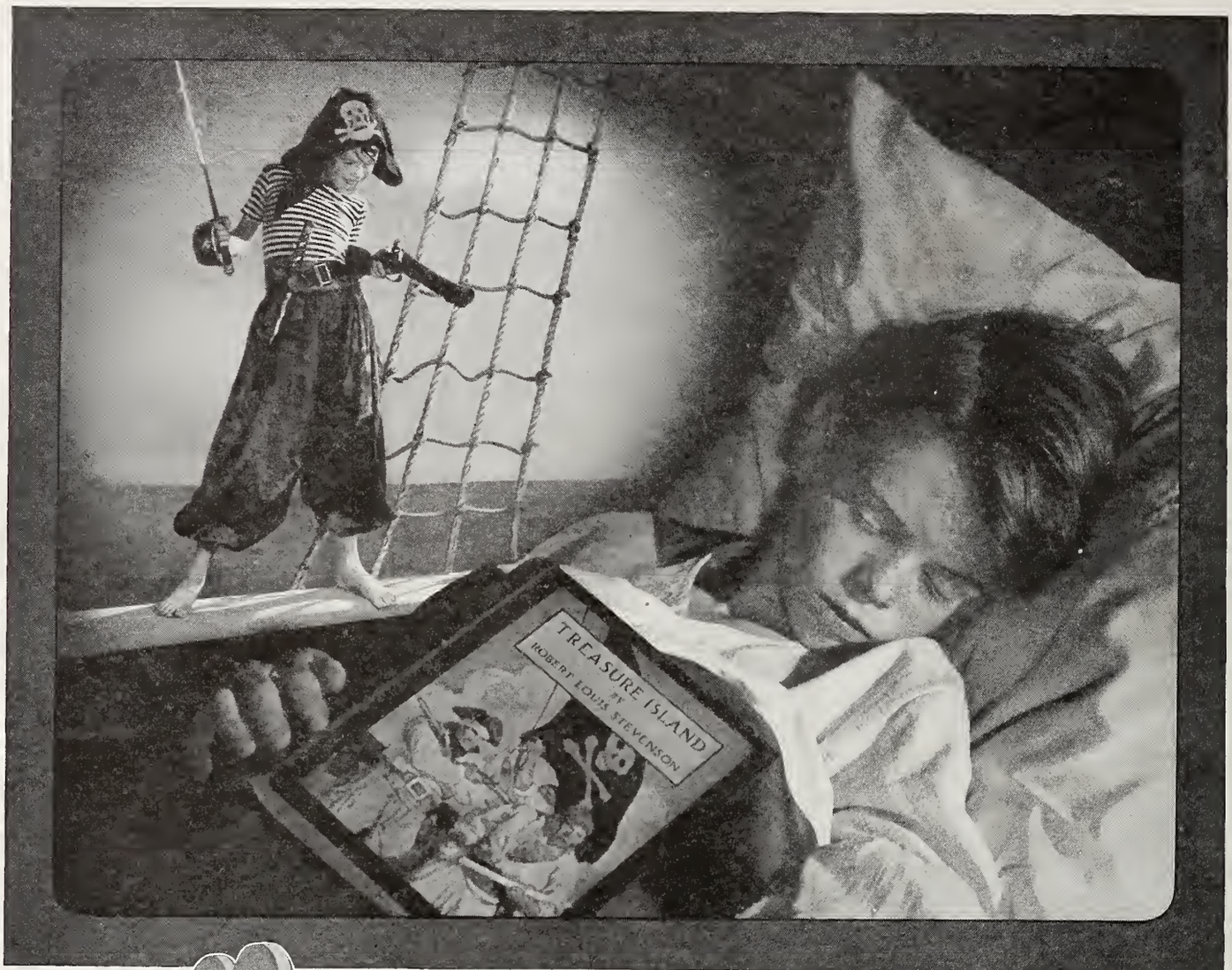
The PCC annual campaign today passed last year's total in number of contributors, according to campaign chairman M. C. Levee, with 20,155 contributors having pledged $1,219,469.84 to date.

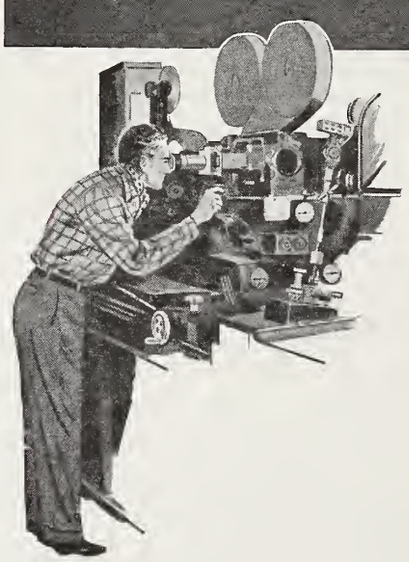
Leases Boston Theatre

Walter Bibo, president of Excelsior Pictures, here, has leased the Fine Arts Theatre, Boston, for exhibition of foreign films. Devoted to such product for most of the past 15 years, the house has been closed recently because of a shortage of foreign films.

Mr. Turtle's Film Bow

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Terry Turtle, new Walt Disney character, will make his film debut in the forthcoming Disney cartoon, "Pluto's Housewarming," which will be released through RKO Radio.





Maker of dreams . . .

• To make dreams like this convincing . . . to show them with the smoothness that brings life and reality . . . that is the job of the optical-effects man.

Yet it is only one of his many contributions to modern pictures. By his skill with the optical printer . . . his production of fades and wipes, of dissolves and laps . . . he plays an important part in giving American movies their high standard of technical excellence.

If the optical-effects man is to play this part to the full, he must use dependable film of superior quality. That's why he usually prefers to work with the large and well-known family of Eastman motion picture films.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
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J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., DISTRIBUTORS
FORT LEE • CHICAGO • HOLLYWOOD

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 28 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1947 TEN CENTS

Seek No Stay In Pressing First Appeal

Columbia Out for Test Prior to Bidding Date

Columbia, which last Thursday filed the first appeal from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, has decided, at least tentatively, against asking the U. S. Supreme Court for a stay in the July 1 effective date of competitive bidding and single sales, Louis Frohlich, Columbia counsel, said at the weekend. The New York Federal District Court, recently denied motions to make these provisions operative 90 days after the high tribunal rules.

Although Judge Augustus N. Hand, at the Jan. 22 hearing on the motions, commented that the defendants could "go down to Washington" to seek a stay, Frohlich now feels this may be unnecessary because he sees a chance of the Columbia appeal being argued during the present Supreme Court session, which ends late in May.

Columbia's *praecipe*, identifying

(*Continued on page* 10)

CSA Groups Weigh High Court Appeal

With a number of the exhibitor groups comprising the Confederacy of Southern Associations already having indicated their desire to appeal to the Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's denial of CSA's petition to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit, attorneys for the association are awaiting the "green light" from St. Augustine, Fla., where

(*Continued on page* 10)

Selznick Revises 'Duel in the Sun'

Hollywood, Feb. 9.—Responding to public reactions to "Duel in the Sun" since its opening in Los Angeles, David O. Selznick has made several revisions in the picture. A revised print has been shipped to New York, where it is scheduled for screen examination by previewing groups. The revised picture is booked for engagements over the Fox West Coast Cir-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Exhibitor May Make Pictures But Must Offer Them to All

Washington, Feb. 9.—Justice Department officials who have reviewed the principle of organized exhibitors sponsoring or engaging indirectly in motion picture production have concluded that such an activity would not be in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act but that, under the New York court decision, resultant pictures would have to be placed on the open market for all exhibitors who wished to play them.

Allied States, for some time past, has been studying arrangements for production of 12 features by an independent producer, which would be underwritten to the extent of a certain amount of guaranteed playing time in Allied member theatres.

The Justice Department, on the other hand, has endeavored to discourage the combination of two or

(*Continued on page* 10)

Asks Theatres Close In UK Coal Crisis

London, Feb. 9.—Stanley Prescott, Conservative Party member of Parliament, has demanded the closing of theatres and other places of entertainment in Britain for at least one day a week, until the shortage of coal here is remedied. Speaking before the House of Commons, Prescott said the coal shortage, combined with unprecedented cold weather, is affecting not only home temperatures but is also closing down factories whose production is essential to the nation's export trade.

May Hasten End of Building Controls

Washington, Feb. 9.—Joseph Martin, Speaker of the House, indicated on Friday that Republicans wish to continue the veterans housing program and that commercial building will be curtailed to "some extent" for several months. However, the GOP will see that controls are removed from other construction as quickly as possible.

Present construction restrictions prohibit the building of new theatres and restrict repairs to "emergency requirements."

Buenos Aires Levies Censorship Fees

Buenos Aires, Feb. 4 (By airmail) —Municipal authorities have levied a new tax on every picture that must undergo inspection by the censor board. Rates run from 50 pesos ($12.25) for films running up to 15 minutes, to 400 pesos ($98) for films running over 90 minutes. This is a severe blow to distributors and it will be easy to judge the results once the authorities of every other city in the country likewise start decreeing similar taxes, as expected. The law is retroactive to Jan. 1.

City authorities are also considering a new tax on admissions.

Of the 191 houses operating in the capital, 59 have improved the percentage of showings of national product; of the 12 houses which were not showing national product, six have now begun to do so; the number of houses complying with the decree has increased from 58 to 69.

Would Outlaw Mergers in Same Industry

Small Business Group Asks Congress for Law

Washington, Feb. 9.—Legislation to outlaw the merger of corporations doing business in one field of business, such as the combination of two film companies, was recommended by the outgoing chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee in a report on Friday.

Chairman James E. Murray told the Senate that several laws should be passed to protect the independent businessman. He presented to the lawmakers drafts of legislation which the committee recommended.

The proposed anti-merger law

(*Continued on page* 6)

Enterprise Leasing Several NY Houses

Enterprise is closing deals to lease several New York theatres, including one large Broadway house, for advanced-admission-price runs of "Arch of Triumph" prior to general release, a spokesman for the company disclosed here at the weekend. Formalization of the deals is expected this week.

The leasing plan, which the company considers extending throughout the country, is similar to that recently announced by Samuel Goldwyn for his "Best Years of Our Lives." It enables producers, who are not subject to injunctions of the industry anti-trust suit, to obtain necessary revenue from high-cost films without violating the final decree's ban against price-fixing, according to proponents of the idea.

"Arch of Triumph" will be ready for showing in April, the Enterprise spokesman said.

Writing Final N. Y. Chapter Today In Long Industry Anti-Trust Suit

Except for actions connected with appeals, the final chapter in the film industry's anti-trust suit, so far as the New York Federal District Court is concerned, will be written this morning when Harold Lasser, special U. S. attorney, appears before Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright to enter a formal order in conformance with their rulings on defense petitions for clarification of the final decree. The case has been in litigation since the autumn of 1938.

Today's action will formalize the extension, from March 1 to July 1, of the time granted to the theatre-owning defendants in which to dissolve existing pools and house-leasing arrangements between themselves and independent exhibitors. The defendants have been given notice of the hour of the ceremony and, theoretically, could attend to present a counter-order. This, however, is not expected, Lasser said at the weekend, since the language to be added to the decree follows the court's ruling in detail.

In This Issue

"Suddenly It's Spring" and "Cigarette Girl" are reviewed on page 3; "Vigilantes of Boomtown" and "The Thirteenth Hour" are reviewed on page 6; "Raiders of the South" and "Lighthouse" are reviewed on page 7.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, vice-president and general sales manager of Universal-International; A. J. O'KEEFE, assistant general sales manager, and JOHN JOSEPH, director of advertising-publicity, are expected here from Chicago today.

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A. W. SCHWALBERG, vice-president and general sales manager of Eagle-Lion, and MAX E. YOUNGSTEIN, advertising-publicity director, will return here today from Toronto.

•

BURTUS BISHOP, JR., M-G-M district manager, has returned to his Dallas headquarters from Memphis and Kansas City.

•

ARTHUR ISRAEL, JR., assistant to BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, is due back in New York today from Miami.

•

JACK PEGLER, New York general manager for Jerry Fairbanks, Inc., is en route to Hollywood, accompanied by LYLE ROBERTSON, Fairbanks writer.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, head of M-G-M's reprints and film import department, will leave here for Albany today.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, Loew's vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, is back in New York from Culver City.

•

MAURICE A. BERGMAN, Eastern advertising-publicity director for Universal-International, has returned here from the Coast.

•

RUDOLPH WEISS, head of the Warner real estate department, will be in Boston today and tomorrow, from New York.

•

MORT EICHENBERG, JR., formerly at the Warner exchange in Des Moines, has joined Columbia as a salesman in Omaha.

•

GEORGE DEMBOW, vice-president in charge of sales for National Screen Service, is due back here today from the Coast.

•

CLAY V. HAKE, Paramount representative in South Africa, has returned to Johannesburg from New York.

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CHARLES THOMSON, manager of the Erlen, Philadelphia, has been transferred to the Temple there.

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EDWARD MOREY, Monogram vice-president, has returned to New York from Boston.

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CARL LESERMAN, executive vice-president of Benedict Bogeaus Productions, is here from the Coast.

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CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox director of advertising-publicity, is due here from Hollywood today.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

EXHIBITOR discussion of plans for the establishment of a voluntary system of industry arbitration will command the attention of the national meeting of independent exhibitors to be held here March 10 and 11.

The meeting was called by Fred Wehrenberg, president of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, to develop plans of organization for a motion picture forum.

At the meeting of the Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association in Washington last week, Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel, announced that his organization will propose the adoption by the industry of an arbitration system at the forum meeting in New York.

The two subjects are closely related and properly should be considered together.

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There is an increasing awareness among exhibitors as the full implications of the New York Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust suit come into sharper focus that some system of arbitration will be of far greater importance to them in the future than it was in the past. Within the area of competitive bidding alone, which is but one of the New York court decree's provisions, there is the all too apparent suggestion of countless differences.

Without an industry arbitration system those differences inevitably will become law suits. Hundreds of exhibitors who could afford arbitration, could not afford litigation.

On the distribution side, the single decree provision, among others, which places the burden of proof of equitable clearance upon the distributor invites endless litigation. Litigation not only is costly but it is time-consuming. Arbitration of clearance disputes under that decree provision should be far more desirable to distributor and exhibitor alike than litigation. Incidentally, this may be demonstrated so forcefully in the near future that even Columbia, United Artists and Universal may eventually reverse their position and submit to arbitration.

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In its *amicus curiae* brief filed with the New York Federal Court last fall, MPTOA recommended the continuance of the present physical arbitration tribunal setup within the industry but with certain changes in its operation and procedures.

The MPTOA views on the subject are of interest now not only because they are certain to be aired more fully at the March exhibitor meeting in New York, but also because they explain the change in the national organization's attitude from one of critical aloofness toward industry arbitration as it was practiced under the defunct industry consent decree to a recognition of a changed form of arbitration as being vital to exhibitors in their future operations under the New York court decree.

While MPTOA has consistently advocated arbitration and conciliation of industry disputes in preference to litigation, it has been critical of the operation of arbitration under the old consent decree for reasons which it has stated frequently. Its *amicus curiae* brief presents what MPTOA believes would correct the failings it perceived in industry arbitration heretofore.

It asks that arbitrators be selected to hear complaints who have background and experience in the industry and first-hand knowledge of it. In addition, MPTOA asks for simplification of arbitration rules and procedures with a view to further expediting the determination of complaints. It asks that arbitration be made less expensive to complainants but that the costs of maintenance of the system be shared by all branches of the industry, not just the defendant companies, and that exhibitors be given a voice in the determination of all details of the system.

These views, supplemented by those of numerous other exhibitor organization representatives who will attend the New York meeting next month, are sure to receive serious exhibitor consideration.

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The national exhibitor interest in arbitration does not supplant nor conflict with plans for a motion picture forum. They supplement each other.

There are numerous exhibitor-distributor grievances that are not arbitrable. Exhibitor complaints of the use of local checkers, of unfair film rentals, of preferred playing time demands and many other grievances cannot be arbitrated. The only hope of relief on such subjects is at the conference table, such as that at which a motion picture forum would sit.

Newsreel Parade

CURRENT newsreels run to varied contents. Spotlighted along with sundry novelty and sports items are happenings in Palestine, the Congressional investigation of Gerhard Eisler, Look magazine's Hollywood achievement awards, United Nation activities, Lord Alexander's U. S. visit, and the extent to which winter is finally making itself felt both here and abroad. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 47—Two kidnappings bring Palestine crisis to a climax. Mystery man Gerhard Eisler is alleged to be boss of Reds in U. S. Winter casts icy grip over nation. Hollywood spotlight: *Look* magazine awards. Mama cat adopts two baby foxes. Sports: baseball school, children's rodeo, motorcycling on ice, figure skating.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 245—Kidnappings during Palestine crisis. Lord Alexander in the U. S. Alleged Red defies Congress. Woman accuses Nazi doctors. M-G-M director and star receive *Look* achievement awards. Sports: baseball school, ice-cycling, new skating queen, underwater fantasy.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 48—Rodeo, junior size. Orlando, Fla.—signs of spring. United Nations debates disarmament. FBI accuses Eisler. King Ibn Saud. Hungry England tightens its belt.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 50 — Lord Alexander calls on the President. Nazi doctors on trial. Al Capone buried. *Look* awards presented in Hollywood. United Nations commission studies Greece. Cold wave hits France.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 11—Motorists marooned by snow avalanche. Florida models perform under water at Marineland, Fla. Alexander arrives for goodwill tour of U. S. Marshal Petain in exile. Kids' rodeo. School for baseball in Florida. Hold first chicken contest. Boxing in France.

Brener Heads New Reade Ad Set-Up

The Walter Reade circuit, here, has set up a home office publicity-advertising department which will be headed by Stephen W. Brener who has been Reade's director of publicity and was chief of the Park Avenue Theatre's publicity operations when that house was under Reade management.

Jim Brady, former advertising manager of the *Asbury Park Sun*, will work as field representative in the new department.

Most Companies to Close on Wednesday

The United Artists, Paramount, Loew-M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, RKO Radio, Columbia and Producers Releasing home offices will be closed all day Wednesday in observance of Lincoln's birthday, as will Monogram's New York office.

Warners and Universal will observe a half-holiday, with one o'clock closings scheduled. The Motion Picture Association and Republic were undecided at the weekend on closing.

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Coming Events

Today—Meeting of the Confederacy of Southern Associations, St. Augustine, Fla.

Tomorrow—Edison centennial dinner, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Tomorrow—Motion Picture Association meeting with the Veterans Administration on films for veterans' facilities, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

Feb. 15-Mar. 15—Drive for Greek orphans.

Feb. 16—American Brotherhood Week begins.

Feb. 17-19—20th Century-Fox national convention, Hotel Astor, New York.

Feb. 19—Meeting of the Atlantic Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

Feb. 22-25—United Artists district sales meeting, Buffalo. Others scheduled: Pittsburgh and El Paso, Feb. 27 to Mar. 2; Chicago, Mar. 6-9.

Mar. 3-6—Institute of Radio Engineers convention, at the Hotel Commodore and Grand Central Palace, New York.

Lang to Enlighten Officials on Films

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—Mayor Fletcher Bowron and other Los Angeles officials will be the first of a series of municipal, state, and national government groups who will be invited to visit the sets during the filming of Fritz Lang's forthcoming Diana Production for Universal-International, "The Secret Beyond the Door." Lang is adopting this policy as a means of acquainting officials with the problems of production.

Lang's move launches a personal-contact educational and goodwill crusade through which the producer-director expects to make public dignitaries better informed on the complex subject of film-making in future legislation and government decisions affecting the industry.

N. J. Skouras Circuit Boosts 'Brotherhood'

Eight Jersey City theatres of the Skouras circuit have joined with Hudson County schools in sponsoring a city-wide essay contest on the subject of tolerance in connection with the motion picture industry's observance of "American Brotherhood Week," Feb. 16-23. Students will compete for prizes of savings bonds which will be awarded next Friday from the stage of the State Theatre, Jersey City.

Skouras Flying Here

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president and Lem Jones, his assistant, are flying to New York tomorrow, following conferences with Joseph M. Schenck. Vice-president Darryl F. Zanuck and Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising and publicity, took a train over the weekend.

Reviews

"Suddenly It's Spring"

(Paramount)

PAULETTE GODDARD, dressed to exciting advantage, and Fred MacMurray, who can make any good comedy situation seem funnier, combine to give a satirical domestic relations story all the color and "ginger" it needs in "Suddenly It's Spring." In less expert hands the dialogue might not have gotten its necessary crispness and the story might have tumbled as often as does MacMurray in the course of his clowning.

As it stands, the picture is something of a joy entertainment-wise for the audience and should be box-office-wise for the exhibitor. Where it touches on marriage it does so amusingly and in a fashion that could hardly be termed too objectionable. Arleen Whelan and MacDonald Carey in featured roles are also definite assets.

Claude Binyon's production has MacMurray waiting at the dock for his WAC wife, Miss Goddard, with divorce papers. In the army she had achieved fame as a counselor on connubial difficulties. MacMurray wants his freedom and, subsequently, Miss Whelan. Carey, as client to lawyer MacMurray, tries to rush the divorce so he might have Miss Goddard. What follows is an assortment of humorous situations leading to, as anticipated, Miss Goddard and MacMurray realizing anew their love for each other.

Mitchell Leisen's direction is polished and probably has wrung from the script all of the possible amusement it contained. Binyon and P. J. Wolfson did the screenplay from an original by Wolfson. Also in the cast are Lilian Fontaine, Frank Faylen, Frances Robinson and others.

Running time, 87 minutes. General audience classification. Release, Mar. 21.

GENE ARNEEL

"Cigarette Girl"

(Columbia)

ALWAYS a handy mold when material of substance is wanting, the omnipresent Cinderella theme is the subject of "Cigarette Girl," which offers Leslie Brooks in the role of a night-club employee who assumes a singer's identity and reputation in order to impress her friend, Jimmy Lloyd. Lloyd, foreman of an oil crew in South America, likewise masquerades as president of his company, upon his return to the U. S. to win Miss Brooks.

But deceit generates its own momentum, and Miss Brooks and Lloyd become embroiled in a confusing mix-up which lands him in jail on charges of stock manipulation and finds her named as co-respondent in a divorce suit involving her benefactor, Howard Freeman, and his wife, Mary Forbes. Of course it all clears up in the final reel. Ludwig Donath portrays a kindly old man who makes dolls for the cigarette girls and gives advice to the lovers.

Combined with the feeble comedy, the suggestion of an illicit relationship between Freeman and Joan Barton, the singer whose position Miss Brooks adopts, makes this picture a sordid and pedestrian affair. Russ Morgan and his orchestra furnish the music. Written by Henry K. Moritz, from a story by Edward Huebsch, the screenplay was directed by Gunther V. Fritsch, with an assist from Ben Kadish. William Bloom produced.

Running time, 67 minutes. Adult classification. Release date, Feb. 13.

IRVING KAPLAN

Cites Television as Aid to Democracy

BOSTON, Feb. 9.—The potentialities of television as a means of extending the effectiveness of democracy in America were cited last night by Dr. V. K. Zworykin, director of RCA's Electronic Research Laboratory and inventor of the iconoscope, in an address before an alumni meeting of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During the meeting the audience witnessed a television demonstration of the company's field pick-up equipment's performance.

Zworykin pointed to recent telecasts of Congress in action as being an effective means of bringing the people in closer touch with that body.

Springer Makes Five Changes in Circuit

Five assistant managerial changes in Century Theatres' staff have been made by J. R. Springer, general manager.

W. Park, assistant at the Lynbrook, has been transferred to the Franklin; A. Gundersen, assistant at the Franklin, transfers to the Lynbrook; A. Pearce assistant at the Fantasy, goes to the Freeport; G. Pratt, assistant at the Freeport, was transferred to the Fantasy; Leo Schranck is the new assistant at the Linden.

Firm Communications Policy Urged for U.S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—A firm and objective international communications policy should be adopted by the Government, the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce said in a report submitted Friday.

Sen. Ernest W. McFarland, author of the report, asserted that international channels of radio communications should be agreed on, also, and all channels should be cleared to provide for an uncensored exchange of news, business and diplomatic messages. General elimination of information barriers was urged by the committee.

Liebmann Awards at Annual IRE Dinner

The Morris Liebmann memorial prize for 1946 has been awarded to Dr. Albert Rose of RCA Laboratories, Princeton, and the Liebmann prize for 1947 to J. R. Pierce, member of the technical staff of Bell Laboratories, New York. The awards were made by the Institute of Radio Engineers. Presentations will be made March 5 at the annual banquet of the IRE, to be held at the Hotel Commodore, here, during the organization's national convention at the Grand Central Palace, March 3-6.

Red Cross and Press To Discuss Drive

Harvey D. Gibson, national fund chairman of the American Red Cross, and Louis C. Boochever, public relations director, will discuss plans for motion picture participation in the organization's next campaign for collections at a luncheon to be given tomorrow to members of the trade press at the Hotel Astor, here.

"The forthcoming campaign of the Red Cross is counting on the continued cooperation of motion picture theatres and the trade press which was so generously given in previous years," declared Howard Bonham, ARC executive, at headquarters in Washington.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Heading the annual fund campaign of Rochester Chapter, American Red Cross, this year is Edward P. (Ted) Curtis, Eastman Kodak vice-president.

Linet Urges Quality Films By Promotion

With the industry "requiring 60 cents out of every dollar spent by the public on entertainment, to maintain its present high calibre of production," it is going to be increasingly difficult to sustain this level without added selling stimuli now that other types of entertainment are regaining their pre-war positions, Henry A. Linet, Universal-International Eastern advertising manager, said Friday in initiating a series of five lectures on motion picture advertising and publicity at the New School for Social Research here.

Linet explained that the job of selling the motion picture theatre calls for the resumption "of that type of showmanship which the industry has been capable of delivering when the chips are down."

Ohio Tax Would Be Raised a Million

COLUMBUS, Feb. 9.—C. Emery Glander, state tax commission, has recommended that the state legislature abandon the $2,000,000 annual excise admission tax and substitute an admission levy by individual communities, to produce $3,000,000 annually. A hasty exhibitor survey indicates a lack of unanimous approval on account of a variation of the possible amount of the tax in various situations according to conditions of local treasuries.

Rep. John Caldwell introduced the measure to jettison the present three per cent retail sales tax and replace it with a tax on gross receipts similar to Michigan's. Rep. James J. Barton has a measure to reduce the sales tax from three to two per cent.

Ruth Brummer to Coast

Sackett and Prince Television Productions, Inc., New York, will be represented on the Coast beginning Feb. 17 by Mrs. Ruth Brummer, who was formerly publicity director of Station WLIB, and assistant to Ted Cott, program director of WNEW in New York.

Johnston to Meet Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, will be host to local trade press representatives at a buffet luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 13. It will be held in the board room at the MPA offices here.

business was above average! . . . . . .

audiences enjoyed the picture! . . . . . .

favorable comments and the reaction was very good! . .

we have dated this picture in every one of our theatres! .

He's talking about

"ABIE'S

ASSOCIATED PRUDENTIAL THEATRES, Inc.

LAckawanna 4-6938

PARAMOUNT BUILDING
Suite 2600
New York 18, N. Y.

Mr Edward M Schnitzer
United Artists Corporation
729 Seventh Avenue
New York N Y

January 29, 1947

Dear Eddie:-

It will interest you to know that we played ABIE'S IRISH ROSE in Patchogue and Bay Shore. Business was above average. The audiences, both afternoon and evening, enjoyed the picture.

We received many voluntary favorable comments and the reaction was very good.

In fact, as a consequence thereof, we have dated this picture in everyone of our theatres.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Seider

g

IRISH ROSE"

—and so is United Artists!

New Theatres

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—Sylvester Enea will head a new $150,000 project for a drive-in theatre in Pittsburg, Cal. Scheduled to open late in March, it will accommodate 550 cars.

Nebraska Legion House

DAKIN, Neb., Feb. 9.—The Legion Theatre, operated by Post No. 198 of the American Legion, has been opened here.

Georgia House to Open May 1

CAVE SPRINGS, Ga., Feb. 9.—The Park Theatre here, is expected to open about May 1.

Second for Lyle Richmond

SENATH, Mo., Feb. 9.—Lyle Richmond has opened the Richmond, a second theatre here. His other house is the Missouri.

Guidry Plans Early Opening

OPELOUSAS, La., Feb. 9.—L. D. Guidry is preparing to open his new theatre here as soon as seating arrangements are complete.

Drive-In Approved

CINCINNATI, Feb. 9.—Common Pleas Judge Alfred Mack has dismissed a mandamus suit filed by Mary J. Burchenal, suburban resident, seeking to have George O. Fitzer, building commissioner of nearby Woodlawn, revoke a building permit issued to Theatre Enterprises, Inc., here for a drive-in theatre in the vicinity, on the contention that it would constitute a neighborhood nuisance. An injunction suit based on similar grounds is pending against the same defendants in the same court wherein 62 residents of suburban Glendale seek to halt construction of the same theatre.

Bryn Mawr to Reopen

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9.—The Bryn Mawr Theatre will open Friday, Feb. 14, under operation of William Goldman Theatres, Inc. The house, formerly known as the Seville, has been undergoing alterations for the past five months. James E. Thompson will be its manager.

M-G-M Signs Berlin

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—M-G-M has signed Irving Berlin for a musical to be called "Easter Parade." The song-writer will compose the score for the picture, as well as have some of his standbys, such as the title song, included. Berlin is said to be getting more than $500,000 under the contract. Arthur Freed will produce the picture.

Reviews

"Vigilantes of Boomtown"

(*Republic*)

"VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN," No. 3 in Republic's current Red Ryder series, is a pace-setter. Exhibiting a number of deft directorial and editorial touches along with some fresh story twists, it is bound to have a "bullish" effect on the stock of these Allan Lane starrers in terms of customer satisfaction. In addition to Lane, Martha Wentworth, Roy Barcroft, Peggy Stewart and Bobby Blake, the cast includes Roscoe Karns, George Turner, Eddie Lou Simms, Bobby Barber and a generous supply of lesser lights.

Earle Snell's original screenplay has to do with the Carson City heavyweight championship bout between "Gentleman" Jim Corbett and Bob Fitzsimmons. Lane and his friends provide a ranch training site for Corbett and offer him moral support. Miss Stewart, however, detests fighting and leads a band of vigilantes with the avowed purpose of preventing the bout from taking place. She would have been successful, perhaps, had it not been for the fact that a band of desperadoes, enemies of Lane, arrive in town to swindle a citizenry preoccupied with the forthcoming boxing match. When she sees that the crooks are about to get away with the townspeople's funds, she sides with Lane whose crack marksmanship and newly-developed flare for boxing, as taught by "Corbett" defeat the heavies. R. G. Springsteen directed with verve and Sidney Picker served as associate producer.

Running time, 56 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 15. CHARLES L. FRANKE

"The Thirteenth Hour"

(*Columbia*)

ANOTHER of "The Whistler" tales out of Columbia's hopper, "The Thirteenth Hour" provides a new twist in the series in having Richard Dix emerge as top man, contrary to the usual plot which has Dix dogged by an incontrovertible fate. Produced by Rudolph C. Flothow, this picture will in all likelihood please followers of the series.

Dix, engaged to Karen Morley who operates a diner with the aid of her 12-year-old son, Mark Dennis, runs a trucking business which has become a threat to the monopoly previously enjoyed by Jim Bannon. Arrested for drunken and reckless driving by motorcycle cop Regis Toomey, rival for Miss Morley's hand, Dix has his driver's license suspended for six months. He runs his business from his desk until, one night, he take a truck out because he cannot get another driver. A masked assailant knocks Dix unconscious and uses the truck to kill Toomey, with the result that Dix becomes a fugitive. In the course of undercover sleuthing aided by his mechanic, John Kellogg, Dix becomes enmeshed in a complex plot involving stolen diamonds, but with the aid of Miss Morley and her son he succeeds in clearing himself and bringing the culprit to justice.

Edward Bock and Raymond L. Schrock wrote the scenario from a story by Leslie Edgley. William Clemens handled the direction, with assistance from Carter DeHaven.

Running time, 65 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set. I. K.

Buy Uncompleted House

MEXICO, CITY, Feb. 9.—Mrs. Barbara Velez's new first-run, which is under construction here, has been purchased before completion by Emilio Azcarraga, theatre and radio station operator, and Neguib Simon, amusements magnate.

Two Mergers Recorded

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Jerome Theatre Corp. has been merged with Prudential Playhouse Circuit, Inc., of New York, and Fullerton Theatre, Inc., has merged with Seider Amusement Co. and Hollis Theatre, Inc. John J. Slattery, New York, was recording attorney.

Zabin Joins Posner

Posner Advertising Agency has changed its name to Posner-Zabin. James B. Zabin, formerly vice-president of the agency, prior to that with Grey Advertising Agency, Buchanan and Co., and general manager of Cinema Circuit, joins Jack Posner as a partner.

Radiant Names Nereim

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—Geovil Nereim, with the Blackstone Advertising Agency for four years, has been named advertising, publicity and promotion director of Radiant Manufacturing Corp., makers of projection screens.

Sack Gets Three Films

DALLAS, Feb. 9.—Three Chesterfield features have been purchased by Alfred N. Sack for distribution in both 35mm. and 16mm. The films, acquired from George Batcheller, are: "Missing Girl," "House of Secrets" and "Red Light Ahead."

Parkside to Shanlon

Shanlon Theatres, Inc., which controls a circuit in New York State, has taken a long-term lease on the Parkside Theatre, Brooklyn. Extensive alterations on the property are planned.

DON'T SIGN until you first learn about Filmack's New Prevue Trailer Service—ready NOW! Write, wire, phone Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill.

Would Outlaw

(*Continued from page 1*)

would prohibit a corporation from acquiring, directly or indirectly, all or any part of the assets of another corporation engaged in the same field of business. Particularly, the legislation would prevent companies from obtaining the stock of another for the purpose of lessening competition, in order to create a monopoly, or to restrain commerce.

Revision of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to make corporation officials liable if a company does not abide by the Trust Act was suggested by the committee. Stiff civil penalties were proposed, including fine and jail sentence to company heads, directors, and policy-making officials involved in a trust violation.

Special Office

It was also proposed that a special office be established at the Justice Department to handle patent cases. Chairman Murray said this unit would work to protect patents when the rights of an individual are ignored by a person or company who used a patented technique without authority of the inventor. The proposed law to prevent a merger of business interests would be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, by which all stock acquistions would be reviewed.

Sen. Murray said that a Federal incorporation act should be passed. The law, he said, would require companies which function in more than one state to incorporate under the Federal Government.

Industry Aid

Sen. Murray asserted that Congress should establish an office of technical services to assist industry in research and to distribute valuable trade information. The office, he explained, would promote the national interest by the introduction of inventions and scientific techniques into communications, public utilities and other phases of productive activity. The bill would strengthen free enterprise by making available to business, particularly small and medium-sized business, scientific and technical inventions, products and processes, he concluded.

"The future of independent business in the United States is threatened as never before by an accumulation of forces so powerful as to raise serious doubts of the ability of the free competitive enterprise system to withstand them, Chairman Murray declared in the report. As outgoing chairman of the committee, his report was called in some quarters here "the dying gasp" of the New Deal, because it recommended the establishment of a score of agencies, bureaus, and foundations to regulate and regiment business.

WABD Suspends

Television station WABD, here, has temporarily ceased its telecasts pending construction of a "bat-wing" antenna. The station expects to be back on the air in about 30 days.

New Export Company

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 9.—American Film Export Corp. has been chartered here to deal in motion pictures. Monroe E. Stein, New York, was incorporating attorney.

Production at New Low Level, Falling to 27

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9. — Production has reached its lowest level in many months as the shooting index fell to 27 from the previous level of 34. Only two pictures went before cameras during the week, whereas nine were completed. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Broadway Baby."
Started: "Major Denning's Trust Estate," with Gloria Henry, Paul Campbell, Harry Davenport, Mark Dennis.
Shooting: "The Lady from Shanghai," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy - Buchman); "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier).

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Song of the Thin Man," "The Hucksters."
Finished: "Son of Love," "The Birds and the Bees," "Living in a Big Way."

Monogram

Shooting: "Tragic Symphony."

Paramount

Finished: "Variety Girl."
Shooting: "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion); "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

PRC

Started: "Step-child," with Donald Woods, Brenda Joyce, Terry Austin.

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Tycoon," "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie."

Selznick

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Moss Rose," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Miracle on 34th Street" (formerly "It's Only Human").

United Artists

Finished: "Stork Bites Man" (Comet); "Heaven Only Knows" (Nebenzal); "Body and Soul" (Enterprise); "Vendetta" (California).

Universal-International

Finished: "Time Out of Mind."
Shooting: "Ivy" (Interwood).

Warners

Finished: "Deep Valley".
Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "The Woman in White," "The Unsuspected" (Cutiz).

'Dorseys' Opens Feb. 26

World premiere of Charles R. Rogers' "The Fabulous Dorseys," released through United Artists, will be held at Loew's Regent Theatre, Harrisburg, on Feb. 26, in conjunction with a state-wide opening of the film in 46 Pennsylvania situations.

'Bagdad' to Victoria

Film Classics' re-presentation of "Thief of Bagdad," in Technicolor, produced by Alexander Korda, has been set to follow "Bedelia," now current at the Victoria, here.

Reviews

"Raiders of the South"

(*Monogram*)

MONOGRAM'S Western accounts should find this newest Johnny Mack Brown adventure particularly satisfying, more so than usual because of interesting and somewhat different story material. The yarn is punctuated of course by hard riding, blasting guns and a few choice slugfests.

Evelyn Brent and Raymond Hatton work nicely with Brown in the presentation of an original screenplay by J. Benton Cheney. Lambert Hillyer directed the film, the setting of which is Texas after the Civil War. It takes into account a new war, one against the intruders from the North. Brown is a Federal agent assigned to break up the group, headed by Miss Brent, which firmly believes the carpetbaggers are a menace to the welfare of Texas. He eventually convinces Miss Brent and her aides of their errors and peace is restored.

Reno Blair, Marshall Reed, John Hamilton and John Morton also appear in the Scott R. Dunlap production.

Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Now in release. G.A.

"Lighthouse"

(*Producers Releasing*)

ALTHOUGH this modest film is quite undistinguished in acting, direction and dialogue, its familiar, straight-line story is held nicely within the bounds of probabilities, and the characterizations ring true.

Taking the lonely life of a lighthouse keeper, John Litel, as a thematic springboard, Robert Churchill's screenplay, from an original by Don Martin, tells how this aging guardian of the seacoast finds a young wife when June Lang paddles out in a rowboat to check up on her boy friend, Don Castle, and discovers that she is being "two-timed" in a high-handed fashion. Although she marries the old man for revenge, her early indifference to him gradually ripens into love, which infuriates the younger man, who must stand by and see it happen. Finally he greases a rock, Litel slips on it and gets badly hurt, but recovers in time to make his home life secure in a fist-flying climax. Marian Martin and Charles Wagenheim lend spice to the small cast. Frank Gilbert produced, and Frank Wisbar directed.

Running time, 62 minutes. General audience classification. TOM LOY

Set 'Women' Premiere

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 9.—World premiere of "Women in the Night," initial production of exhibitors Joe and Lou Ansell, St. Louis theatre owners and chief stockholders of Southern California Pictures, will be held here in the spring. Budgeted at $500,000, it is now going through final processing phases on the Coast. Lou Ansell helped write the scenario, acted in the film as an "extra" and is helping in the advertising and publicity.

Four Are Labelled 'A'

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—The local censor board has classified four pictures "for adults only." They are: "Swell Guy" (U); "The Red House" (UA); "The Beast with Five Fingers" (WB); "The Love of Toradore" (Aztecas-Mexican). The board also rejected two, both Mexican, titled "A Modern Virgin" and "Naughty Susan."

'Rome' Opens Feb. 21

"Before Him All Rome Trembled," a new Italian picture starring Anna Magnani, prize-winning actress of "The Open City," will open at the Republic Theater here on Feb. 21. The film will be distributed by Superfilm Distributing Corporation, which has especially leased the Republic for this picture.

Bolt Mexican Union

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 9. — Mexican screen and stage performers are bolting from one union to a rival organization in protest against the lack of of work. They are leaving the Picture Production Workers Union, headed by Mario Moreno, and are joining the National Picture Industry Workers.

Navy Honors Warners

On Friday, during ceremonies held at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Harry M. Warner, Warner Brothers president; A. C. Brauninger, who handled distribution of Warner films for the Armed Forces during the war, and the company itself, were awarded certificates of achievement by the U. S. Navy "in recognition of outstanding services to naval personnel" during World War II.

37½c Warner Dividend

Warner Brothers' board of directors, at a meeting here on Friday, declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents per share on common stock, payable on April 3, to stockholders of record on March 7.

37½-Cent RCA Dividend

The board of directors of RCA has declared a dividend of 37½ cents on outstanding shares of $3.50 cumulative first preferred stock, for the period from Jan. 1 to March 31. The dividend is payable April 1 to holders of record on March 7.

Senate Republicans Pledge Trade Aid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Two Republican Senate leaders late last week pledged support to the State Department's reciprocal trade program, but were critical of some Government practices in drawing up the treaties. They were Sen. Vandenberg, Foreign Relations Committee chairman, and Sen. Millikin, Finance Committee chairman.

Major point of criticism made by the Senators was that the State Department should not cloak its plans in secrecy. Other suggestions were made for adoption when the Reciprocal Trade Act expires in June, 1948.

It was recommended that President Truman authorize the U. S. Tariff Commission to review contemplated tariff reductions and make proposals direct to the Executive Office.

Also, they said, there should be an "escape clause" in every trade agreement. Such a clause would permit the Government to modify any tariff reduction or concession if in practice it develops that such reduction or concession has imperiled any domestic interest.

Vigorous enforcement of trade pacts was urged by the two leaders. "Every effort should be made to police the agreements we make," they said. "There are entirely too many barriers now being imposed upon American goods and services abroad and in many cases these barriers are in violation of existing pacts and treaties," Sen. Vandenberg concluded.

Many Visiting Indio

INDIO, Cal., Feb. 9.—Current and recent visitors at this desert resort include Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Doob and Mr. and Mrs. Mort Spring of Loew's; Malcolm Kingsberg, RKO; Irving Berlin; Joan Fontaine; William Scully and Maurice Bergman, Universal, who were here on their way to Chicago; David Loew will arrive Thursday; John Balaban, Chicago circuit operator, will arrive with his wife this week.

Folsom on Council

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Marion B. Folsom, treasurer of Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y., has been named a vice-chairman of the Business Advisory Council of the Department of Commerce, by Averill Harriman, Secretary of Commerce.

Approve Newnan Station

NEWNAN, Ga., Feb. 9. — The Newnan Broadcasting Co. has been authorized by the Federal Communication Commission to erect a new station.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
NEW HAVEN TRADE SHOWING OF
"CODE OF THE WEST"
WILL BE HELD AT THE
FOX PROJ. ROOM, 40 WHITING ST., NEW HAVEN.
TUESDAY, FEB. 11, AT 10:30 A. M.
AND NOT ON THURS., FEB. 20, AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

IT'S THE TRUTH! IT'S ACT

BUILDS! BUILDS! BUILDS!

TO LONG RUNS EVERYWHERE!*

* Four smash weeks at Keith's WASHINGTON!
* Now in 4th potent week at United Artists' DETROIT . . . and no let-up!
* First picture ever to play 2nd week at the Utah, SALT LAKE CITY!
* Now marathoning in 4th big week at MILWAUKEE's Riverside!
* Now in 12th BIRMINGHAM week — 4 weeks at the Empire; 8th week at the Capitol!
* Six thrilling CINCINNATI weeks — 2 each at the Grand, the Shubert, the Lyric!
* After all-time record run at the Fox — three move-over weeks in 1st-run Paramount, ATLANTA!
* Second week tops most 1st weeks at the Orpheum, DENVER!
* In CHATTANOOGA (normal 4-day town), one whole week at the Tivoli, 5 *more* days at the State!
* Three solid weeks in TOLEDO — 1 each at Rivoli, Pantheon, Palace!
* Fourteen full days at the Georgia Theatre, COLUMBUS — where 4 days is normal run!
* Two outstanding weeks at Orpheum, MINNEAPOLIS and Orpheum, ST. PAUL!
* Three precedent-breaking weeks at the State, OKLAHOMA CITY!
* Now in 2nd record week at the Palace, MEMPHIS, and full steam ahead!
* Three packed weeks at the Knickerbocker, NASHVILLE!
* Fifteen crowded days at the Orpheum, DES MOINES!

— So *double* your playing time and play safe!

TUAL!..

EVERYTHING IS SATISFACTUAL!

© W.D.P.

WALT DISNEY'S

GREATEST AND HAPPIEST PRODUCTION

SONG OF THE SOUTH

in TECHNICOLOR

Based on the Famous Tales of

UNCLE REMUS

AND

BRER RABBIT

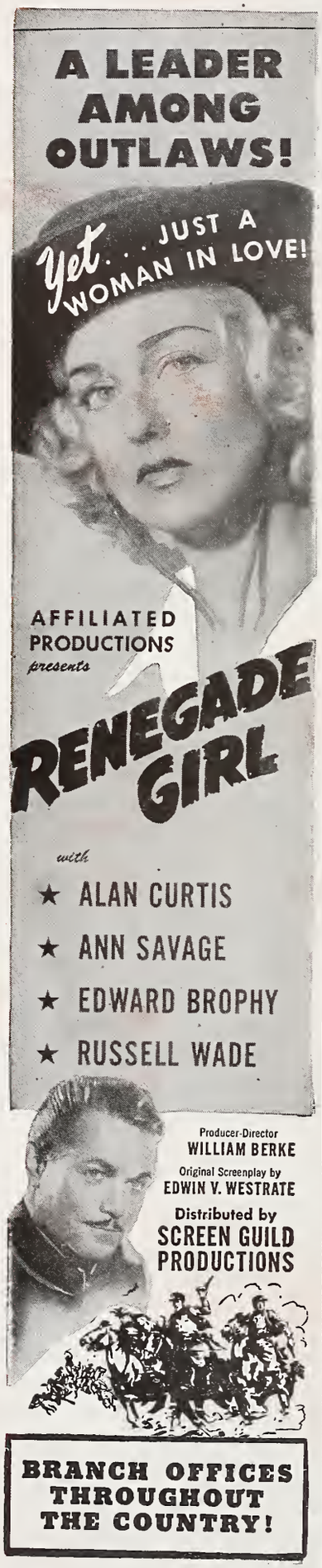
NOW ON THE "HIT PARADE"

"ZIP-A-DEE DOO DAH"

"SOONER OR LATER"

— and the others moving right in!

Distributed by RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc



Short Subjects . . .

"Kentucky Basketeers"
(RKO Radio)

Basketball devotees will get an inside view of the game as the "Sportscope" follows the "Wildcats" of the University of Kentucky at Lexington through their paces in the development of cohesive teamwork. Running time, eight minutes.

"A Really Important Person"
(M-G-M)

Young Billy Reilly, enacted by Dean Stockwell, wanted to win a catcher's mitt by writing the best essay on "A Really Important Person." Not in the history books, but in the least likely place—his own home—does he find the subject for his composition. Running time, nine minutes.

"The Luckiest Guy in the World"
(M-G-M)

Charlie Vurn, in this two-reel special, was thought the luckiest guy in the world. But when his wife died in an accident, fate made it look like murder. He tried to cover up, but an ironic play of the cards dealt him the final blow. Running time, 21 minutes.

"Battle of Champs"
(Warner Brothers)

Leading athletes in a number of fields use their own special skills and their own special equipment to play a game of golf. Lou Novikoff uses his baseball bat, Dick Miller his rod and reel, Charlie Stevens his sling shot and Howard Hill his bow and arrow. Together they match putts with Johnny Dawson, the outstanding amateur golfer. In Technicolor. Running time, 10 minutes.

"Popular Science"
(Paramount)

Fascinating subjects presented in this issue of the "Popular Science" series are a 110-ton "Tournalayer" which pours concrete houses with the ease of an assembly line, an isolated mountain-top weather station and sponge-fishing. Running time, 11 minutes.

"Andy Plays Hookey"
(Columbia)

Andy Clyde, having saved enough money to buy a ticket to the championship fight, is forced to use his small hoard to pay traffic fines slapped on his brother-in-law. Andy gets some more money, tells his boss he must attend his mother-in-law's funeral and then plunges into more trouble. The only fight he sees, finally, is one going on in his own living room. Running time, 18 minutes.

"Screen Snapshots"
(Columbia)

This edition introduces motion picture columnists, including Hedda Hopper, Jimmy Fidler, Louella Parsons, Jimmy Starr, Sidney Skolsky and others. Running time, nine minutes.

"Half-Wit's Holiday"
(Columbia)

On a $1,000 wager, a psychologist sets out to convert the Three Stooges into polished gentlemen. After 60 days of training, the trio makes its laugh-getting debut into society. Running time, 17½ minutes.

"Diamond Demon"
(Pete Smith-M-G-M)

In a startling display of baseball virtuosity, Johnny Price, shortstop of the Oakland ball team, exhibits his skill and coordination as a batter, fielder and pitcher. But Johnny does these the hard way: accurately pitching and throwing two and three balls at the same time, hitting two balls in opposite directions and wildly driving a jeep around while he fields from various contorted positions. Pete Smith does the commentary. Running time, 10 minutes.

"Let's Go Swimming"
(Warner Brothers)

Playgrounds of millions of Americans, the nation's seacoasts are captured in Cinecolor in this "Sports Parade" short, with Merwin Daynes, swimming instructor, and his troupe of girl swimmers lending an additional scenic and professional touch. Running time, 10 minutes.

Exhibitor May Make

(Continued from page 1)

more segments of industry, whether it be films or coal mines. The Department sees no anti-trust violation in prospect in Allied's proposal, however.

Assistant U. S. Attorney General Wendell Berge is so hopeful of ultimate divorcement of affiliated theatres that he pauses to remind exhibitors who are interested in participating in production ventures that, if they wait upon divorcement and it is realized, their need for increased production and, consequently, their incentive for engaging in it will be eliminated. However, should divorce ever be won, most observers believe that about five years would be granted to complete the divestiture process.

A Department official pointed out what he regards as a danger in too compact or too ambitious an exhibitor excursion into production.

"The same anti-trust violation," he said, "would occur through exhibitor control of too large a segment of the industry as is charged now against the defendants in the New York anti-trust suit."

'Duel in the Sun'

(Continued from page 1)

cuit in California and over the Interstate Circuit in Texas later this month.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—*The New World*, Chicago's official Roman Catholic weekly newspaper, has condemned "Duel in the Sun" because "it argues the audience into winking at sin, and a minister of religion is made ridiculous in his role as the sin killer."

The New World also points out that Catholic objections to the film have been supported by the Church Federation of Los Angeles, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

De la Cruz Is Named Manager in Mexico

Rafael de la Cruz, former assistant manager of Monogram Pictures in Mexico, has been elevated to manager, replacing Jack O. Lamont, resigned. De la Cruz was installed in his new post by Monogram International executive David D. Horne, who has returned here from Mexico City.

Seek No Stay

(Continued from page 1)

every part of the record in the case which the appellant desires to have printed for presentation to the high tribunal, will be filed here at least by Wednesday, Frohlich said. Thereafter, the government will have 15 days in which to move for the inclusion of supplementary material. Columbia can have its record ready within a week, the attorney added.

Counsel for the other two non-theatre-owning defendants still are working on their appeals. The United Artists' board of directors, meeting here tomorrow, will be asked for approval of that company's intention to go before the Supreme Court, according to a UA legal spokesman. Attorney Thomas Turner Cooke, who is handling the case for Universal, said Friday that he had not yet brought up his appeal plans for board action.

Meanwhile, the government appeal, seeking complete divorcement of distribution and exhibition, has been submitted to the U. S. Solicitor General's office for approval, according to attorney Harold Lasser of the Department of Justice, who returned here Friday following a conference in Washington.

The five theatre-owning defendants have as yet made no official statement regarding any appeals they may take, but spokesmen for several of them have indicated an intention to await the government's step before filing any Supreme Court petitions of their own.

CSA Groups

(Continued from page 1)

the CSA executive committee will meet today to decide the appeal question.

Attorney George B. Brooks of the firm of Jackson, Nash, Brophy, Barringer and Brooks said at the weekend that, if the committee orders an appeal, an effort will be made to have it ready for filing by March 1, the date the Department of Justice and most defendants regard as their deadline for petitions to the high tribunal, although counsel for some parties to the suit believe such appeals might be accepted as late as April 3, which is 60 days after motions for modification of the final decree were denied.

CSA, however, has a clearly-defined right to delay its appeal until March 24, Brophy said, pointing out that this would be 60 days after the New York court formalized the denial of his client's intervention petition, along with that of the American Theatres Association.

Regardless of CSA's action, ATA will appeal before March 1, according to Robert W. Coyne, executive director, who said at the weekend that his group's petition will include arguments by Thurman Arnold, ATA counsel, against competitive bidding. Opposition to the bidding system is the sole point on which both exhibitor associations seek to intervene.

This week the best showmen in America are reading

FAME

A Quigley Publication

carving a REPUTATION!

When there's a story to be TOLD . . . about "*What's Coming*" . . . to your theatre . . . and patrons to be SOLD . . . on the idea of *returning* to your theatre . . . you KNOW you can count on The PRIZE BABY. . . to do a "*telling*" job . . . at "point-of-contact" . . . week in and week out . . . with TRAILERS and ACCESSORIES!

He's well cut-out . . . for this *Big Job* . . . of serving TRAILERS and ACCESSORIES . . . with the "*show-must-go-on*" type of SERVICE . . . so essential to *your* business . . . BECAUSE . . . he delivers the *SHOWMAN'S* kind of Advertising . . . from a *Single Source* . . . that saves *Time* and *Effort* for YOU!

It's no secret . . . that he's *still* "The PRIZE BABY of the Industry" . . . BECAUSE . . . he's been making his mark in the motion picture industry . . . for Twenty-Seven years . . . by *Carving A Reputation* . . . at *your* BOX OFFICE!

American
Brotherhood Week
Feb. 16—23

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 51. NO. 29 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1947 TEN CENTS

Skyrocketing NY Realty Tax Faces Industry

Distributors, Exhibitors May Protest New Rates

With a substantial portion of New York City's $1,141,146,406 tentative increase in real estate assessments for 1947-48 levied upon motion picture properties, the industry here is considering action against the threat of a mounting real estate tax burden. Whether the present real estate tax rate of $2.86 per $100 in Manhattan will also be increased for 1947-48 will not be determined until June 20, the Tax Commissioners' office reports.

The Paramount Theatre and office building at Times Square is assessed on a valuation of $11,100,000 ($200,000 more than in 1946-47) and is de-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Allied Legislative Unit Set to Start

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of Allied States, said today that his organization's clearing house for exhibitor information to combat theatre taxation and legislation will start exchanging information among Allied regionals at once.

"It is important that all exhibitors

(*Continued on page 6*)

Raibourn Opposes Color Television

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Likening color television on a rotating disc basis to color motion picture processes, tried years ago and discarded, Paul Raibourn, vice-president of Paramount and president of its subsidiary, Television Productions, today submitted to the Federal Communications Com-

(*Continued on page 6*)

No Paper Tomorrow

***Motion Picture Daily* will not be published tomorrow, Lincoln's Birthday, a legal holiday.**

18 Laboratories in East Faced With Strike on March 10

Strike action has been voted by employes of 18 Eastern film laboratories, members of Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians, Local No. 702, IATSE, who seek wage parity with West Coast technicians, John J. Francavilla, president of the local, said here yesterday. The Western laboratories recently were hard hit by a strike of workers there.

The Coast rate, Francavilla said, was raised last November to a point some 40 per cent higher than Eastern pay scales and now ranges from $1.40 to $2.10 per hour. Local 702's contract with the 18 companies expires on March 10, he added, explaining that the strike vote was taken at this time to clear the way for a walkout

(*Continued on page 6*)

Loew International Gets 6 Runs Abroad

With the acquisition of five theatres in Europe and one in Australia, Loew's International Corp., headed by Arthur M. Loew, now has 42 showcases overseas, highest in the company's history.

Latest to join the M-G-M international circuit are: the Plaza, in Toulouse, France; Forum, Liege, Belgium; Scala, Antwerp; Rialto, Geneva; Capitole, Lausanne, Switzerland; Regal, Sydney.

Both the Forum and Plaza were Metro houses before the war, and now after the untangling of legalities are returned to that company. During hostilities, the Forum was damaged, as was the newly purchased Scala in Antwerp, one of the largest in Belgium.

Final 'U' Meeting Here Feb. 14-16

The third and final Universal-International regional sales meeting at which plans for distribution of the company's product for the next six months, including "The Egg and I," will be disclosed, will be held at the Hotel Astor here Feb. 14-16, with William A. Scully, U-I vice-president and general sales manager, presiding.

Attending this session will be district and branch managers and salesmen from the Eastern region, as well as home office executives. John Joseph, U-I advertising-publicity director, who arrived in New York yesterday from California, will outline advertising, publicity and exploitation plans for the new product.

Edison Centennial

Thomas A. Edison

Born, February 11, 1847

Inventor of the Motion Picture

FILM industry representatives today will join celebrations, in New York and throughout the country, marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas A. Edison, whose many inventions included some of the motion picture's fundamental mechanisms and who produced pictures from 1893 until 1916.

Mary Pickford, who grew up with the industry as star, independent producer and part-owner of United Artists, will spearhead film participation in the Edison events here, appearing on the program of both the Edison Pioneers luncheon at the Astor Hotel, and the Centennial Committee dinner tonight at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-

(*Continued on page 6*)

CSA Vote Favors Intervention Appeal

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Feb. 10.—The Conference of Southern Associations at their meeting today voted to direct counsel to take an appeal from the denial of the Conference's petition to intercede in the industry anti-trust suit. The step will be the first in CSA's attempts to bring its objections to the New York court decree before the U. S. Supreme Court. Col. Robert T. Barton, CSA counsel, addressed the directors at the meeting, and will initiate the appeal action.

Halt British Labs in Grave Fuel Crisis

2,604 Theatres Now on Part Time or Closed

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 10.—British laboratories today were forbidden to continue film processing or printing as the nation's fuel crisis developed into the grave pattern of a national emergency. Already, approximately 2,604 theatres have been affected to the extent of being forbidden to open until four P. M. and many are not opening at all due to their inability to provide satisfactory heating during the existing cold wave here.

Industry leaders are bewildered by the rapidly changing emergency which brings new

(*Continued on page 6*)

Casey Gets CSU Request for Confab

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10.—Conference of Studio Unions has telegraphed Pat Casey, studio labor liaison here, advising him that "Complete authority has been granted to local representatives of most international unions involved in the current studio labor dispute to act for their internationals on all matters concerning the Hollywood

(*Continued on page 7*)

Ontario Tightening 'Adult' Gradings

TORONTO, Feb. 10.—Word from legislative circles is that the Ontario government will put through an amendment to the Theatres and Cinematographs Act at the forthcoming session of the legislature which would ban the shipment of films by distributors to any theatre whose proprietor

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Issue

"Michigan Kid" and "Millie's Daughter" are reviewed on page 7; key city grosses are given on page 4.

Petition Congress On Red Cross Case

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10.—Petitions calling on Congress to investigate the Red Cross's refusal to accept the industry's $201,250 donation were circulated today by 20 studio guilds and unions, comprising 18,010 contributors to the gift proffered by the Permanent Charities Committee.

Speaking for the group, Ralph H. Clare, of the teamsters local, said, "The Red Cross is a quasi-official agency operating under Government charter. The President of the United States automatically becomes its president when he assumes office. He appoints a chairman of the Red Cross national central committee. We have no quarrel with the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross, which favored acceptance of the contribution. Our difference is with the national central committee, headed by Basil O'Connor. There is a similarity in the action of the Red Cross to that of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which also refused a gift. O'Connor is president of the latter group and undoubtedly influences policies of both organizations. As he is presidential appointee, we are using the petitions to call his actions to the attention of Congress and Mr. Truman."

$70,000 to Aronstein For Fox Settlement

Robert Aronstein, attorney for a number of creditors of the old Fox Theatre Corp., yesterday was awarded a fee of $70,000 in U. S. District Court here for his services in bringing about the recent settlement whereby the creditors received $250,000 from United Artists Theatre Circuit and Skouras Theatre Corp. in payment for Class A stock of Fox Metropolitan Playhouse, Inc.

The fee was granted by Federal Judge John C. Knox, who also awarded $4,000 to Nathan Smyth, special master in the case. Aronstein had asked for one-third of the amount the creditors received in the settlement.

Bergman to Do 'Joan' As Technicolor Film

Ingrid Bergman will portray Joan of Arc in a Technicolor picture which she will make independently in association with Victor Fleming and Walter Wanger.

Filming will commence in Hollywood immediately following the closing of Miss Bergman's current broadway play, Maxwell Anderson' "Joan of Lorraine," scheduled to terminate in May. Anderson may do the screenplay.

Most Close Tomorrow

Several home offices revised earlier plans not to close tomorrow, Lincoln's Birthday, with the result that nearly all, including the Motion Picture Association office here, will be closed all day. Lone possible exception is Republic, which was still undecided yesterday.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, Universal-International vice-president and general sales manager; A. J. O'KEEFE, assistant general sales manager, and JOHN JOSEPH, director of advertising-publicity, arrived in New York yesterday from Chicago.

•

EDWARD L. HYMAN, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., and MAX FELLERMAN, Paramount Theatre executive, will leave New York on Wednesday for an up-state tour, accompanied by HARRY ROYSTER, general manager of Netco Theatres.

•

MAURICE A. BERGMAN, Universal-International advertising-publicity director, who is still nursing injuries sustained in San Francisco 10 days ago, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast but will not return to his office until next Monday.

•

STANLEY HODES, Brandon Films' publicist and son of HAL HODES, Columbia executive, will leave New York for Key West, Fla., at the end of the month to recuperate from an illness for which he had been hospitalized here.

•

HAMILTON MCFADDEN of the U. S. State Department's motion picture division, has arrived in Washington from the Coast, and is expected to return to his New York office this week.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic vice-president and general sales manager, and WALTER TITUS, also a vice-president, were in Atlanta yesterday, having left New York for Miami.

•

MORRIS GOODMAN, former Motion Picture Export Association executive in Berlin, will leave London on Feb. 13 aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* for New York.

•

AL HOFFMAN, ROSE LESHER COWLES and GLADYS ZUCKER of M-G-M's home office, have returned to New York from Miami vacations.

•

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, president of Astor Pictures of Georgia, has returned to his Atlanta office following a brief illness.

•

DON HASSLER, special representative for Astor Pictures of Georgia, has returned to Atlanta from Wilmington, N. C.

•

ARTHUR B. KRIM, Eaglie-Lion president, is due here from the Coast tomorrow.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON of M-G-M's home office publicity department, has returned here from Washington.

•

PAT O'BRIEN is due in New York from the Coast on Thursday for a 12-day stay.

•

WARREN LOW of Hal Wallis Productions arrived here from the Coast yesterday.

•

IRVING RAPPER, Warner director, has arrived here from the Coast.

KARL MACDONALD, vice-president of Warner International, has returned to New York from Mexico City.

•

ROY HAINES, Warners Western division manager, will leave here tonight for Detroit en route to Chicago. JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division manager, left here last night for Cleveland and Pittsburgh. NORMAN H. MORAY, short subject sales manager, will leave here for a Western tour in a few days.

•

MAX COHEN, Universal-International's Cleveland branch manager, at the conclusion of the company's Feb. 14-15 meeting here will go to Washington to visit his son, RICHARD, who, at that time, will announce his engagement to LOIS ZULIN of Washington.

•

RUSSELL HOLMAN, Paramount Eastern production head; ALAN JACKSON, Eastern story editor, and FRANK FARLEY, Paramount's British production representative, arrived here from the Coast yesterday.

•

ROBERT MARHENKE, former manager of the Maryland Theatre, Baltimore, is now serving in the same capacity at the Hiway Theatre, Middle River, Md.

•

JOHN G. VOLZ, former captain in Army public relations, has been named manager of the Little Theatre, Baltimore, and assistant publicity director of the Hippodrome there.

•

RODNEY COLLIER, manager of the Stanley, Baltimore, celebrated his 22nd wedding anniversary last weekend.

•

JIMMY GLASSMAN, traffic manager of Screencraft Pictures, here, will be married today to RAY NADLER of Brooklyn.

•

FAY DRESSELL, Minneapolis RKO Radio branch manager, is back at work following a recent major operation.

•

LEO ABRAMS, National Screen Service's Albany district manager, has returned from Buffalo.

•

DON SWARTZ, Minneapolis independent distributor, has returned there from New York.

•

MRS. NAZERA ZEGIOB, Lorain, O., theatre owner, is vacationing in Florida.

•

CHARLES K. STERN, assistant treasurer of Loew's, will leave here for the Coast tomorrow.

•

MAURICE GOLDSTEIN, general sales manager of Monogram, has returned to New York from New England.

•

EVERT ROSE of Paramount International's theatre department has left New York for Havana.

•

IRVING GREENFIELD, Loew attorney, is back in town from Miami.

Ask for Dismissal of Fanchon Trust Suit

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 10.—Several defendants in Martin W. D'Arcy's $600,000 anti-trust suit charging distributors and executives of Fanchon and Marco here conspired to keep him from buying films have filed briefs in Federal Court asking that the suit be dismissed. D'Arcy formerly owned the Shubert Theater, now operated by Fanchon and Marco, and alleges the conspiracy took place and that he lost $600,000 as a result.

Among defendants asking for dismissal are 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Warners, RKO-Radio, United Artists, Universal, Columbia. Previously, Loew's had filed a denial of the charges.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
BING CROSBY
FRED ASTAIRE
JOAN CAULFIELD
Irving Berlin's
'BLUE SKIES'
In TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON
WILBUR EVANS
PIERRE D'ANGELO & YANYA
Extra!
JESSE BLOCK
with EVE SULLY

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN · SONNY TUFTS
in "EASY COME, EASY GO"
A Paramount Picture
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
in Person
THE INK SPOTS
ELLA FITZGERALD
TIP TAP & TOE
STUMP & STUMPY
Extra!
COOTIE WILLIAMS
His Trumpet And His Orchestra
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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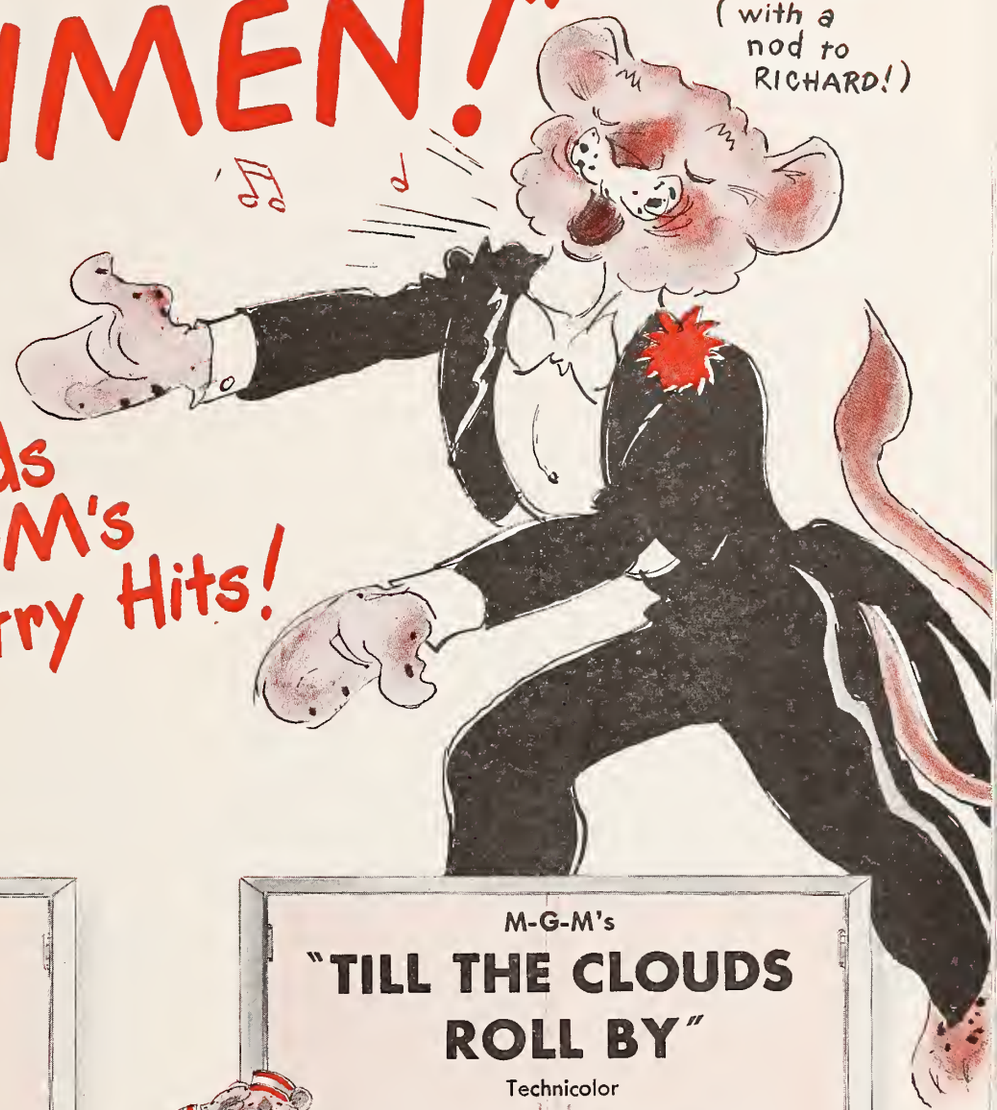
OPEN THE DOOR SHOWMEN!"

(with a nod to RICHARD!)



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M-G-M's

"THE YEARLING"

Technicolor

Second week-end tops first as M-G-M's Prize Picture packs Radio City Music Hall, acclaimed with rave reviews. Continuing BIG in its 7th Week, Los Angeles, Twice Daily!

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"TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY"

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After 7 record weeks at Radio City Music Hall, it is delighting the nation and rolling up the biggest grosses of the year! A screenful of Stars in a grand box-office hit!

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Launched with International Previews, including Washington, D. C. and New York City. The Scoop of the Century, the human drama behind the creation of the Atom bomb!

Cold Hits New York 1st-Runs; 'Bedelia,' 'Quentin' Are Big

Severe cold accompanied by snow presented a major box-office handicap to New York first-runs with total receipts for the current week, including anticipated holiday revenue tomorrow, generally falling short of grosses of the past few weeks.

Three new shows went over big. In its first week at the Victoria "Bedelia" figures to ring up a terrific $30,000. Taking $12,000 Saturday and Sunday, "San Quentin" with Lawrence Tierney in person probably will hit a very substantial $25,600 in a first week at the Gotham. At the Paramount, "Easy Come, Easy Go" with the Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald, among others on the stage, probably will wind up its initial week with a good $83,000.

"The Yearling" with a stage presentation at the Music Hall grossed $77,000 Thursday through Sunday, indicating $130,000 for a third week, which is very healthy business although representing a marked drop under last week.

'Years' Also Off

Similarly, "The Best Years of Our Lives" fell off some in a 12th week at the Astor with only $51,000 evident. This is big for the house but still short of previous weeks' totals.

"13 Rue Madeleine", with Gracie Fields on the stage, provided the Roxy with only $50,000 in the five days ending Sunday, further evidence of the damage done by the weather. The show played a day short of three weeks with "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim" going in today. Peter Lorre, Evelyn Knight and Gil Lamb will be on the stage.

"Lady in the Lake" with Tex Beneke's orchestra is holding up well at the Capitol where $77,000 is looked for in a third week. The third week of "Dead Reckoning" appears good for $26,000 at the Criterion. "Sinbad the Sailor" drew $20,300 Friday through Sunday at the Palace indicating $38,500 for a third week, which is good. "It's a Wonderful Life" is slipping at the Globe which expects $21,000 for an eighth week. "Strange Woman" will follow on Feb. 22 with "The Red House" next.

'Man' Fair in Last Week

At the Strand, "The Man I Love" and Charlie Barnet's orchestra on the stage are fair at $40,000 estimated for a third and final week. "That Way with Women" will open Thursday followed by U. S. Pictures' "Pursued."

"Nora Prentiss" will open at the Hollywood late this month. The present tenant, "Humoresque," probably will take about $18,000, a moderate gross, for the current week, its eighth. "California" should do about $25,000 in its fourth week at the Rivoli, which is fair.

"Swell Guy" is still profitable at the Winter Garden where $20,000 is in view for a third week. "I'll Be Yours" is scheduled to open Feb. 21. At the Park, "Stairway to Heaven" is dropping a little with $14,000 apparent for a seventh week.

"Two Smart People" will open at the Rialto on Friday, succeeding "Tower of London" which will conclude its third and final week with $7,000, which is about average. At the John Golden, "Henry V" grossed about $11,000 in its 24th week of a moveover run.

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CHICAGO

Grosses held up well here despite sub-zero weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 13-14:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) 7th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $12,000)

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (65c-95c). On stage: Bob Crosby and orchestra. Gross: $70,000. (Average: $60,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—GARRICK (1,000) (65c-95c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (65c-95c) 7th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) 2nd week. On stage: Clyde McCoy and orchestra. Gross: $50,000. (Average: $45,000)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—PALACE (2,500) (55c-65c-95c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $24,000)

WILD BILL HICKOK RIDES (WB reissue) and CITY FOR CONQUEST (WB reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (55c-65c). Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (65c-95c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE LAKE (2,700) (65c-95c) 7th week. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $25,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $25,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 8th week. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $20,000)

PITTSBURGH

Extremely cold weather, heavy snow and hazardous traveling damaged grosses. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 13:

TEMPTATION (UI)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $9,700)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $25,000)

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on moveover from Penn. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $3,500)

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER (Favorite Films reissue) and ONE MILLION B.C. (Favorite Films reissue)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,200)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $25,000)

NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 4th week, on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,000)

PHILADELPHIA

Despite the unusual cold wave, movie business continues good here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 11-13:

TEMPTATION (U-I)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $14,000)

BOOM TOWN (M-G-M reissue)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,600. (Average: $7,250)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $22,800)

BLIND SPOT (Col.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Duke Ellington. Gross: $33,500. (Average, for 7 days: $22,800)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $28,000)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $26,000)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,800)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,500)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $28,300)

HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.30-$1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $24,900)

LADY LUCK (RKO Radio)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,200)

BALTIMORE

Holdovers are holding down the current week's box-office figures abetted by a cold spell. Business, while not bad, has tapered off somewhat. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 13:

THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c and 65c weekends) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)

NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN (U-I)—KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,000)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $17,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. With stage show. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000)

ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days. Gross: $7,250. (Average: $6,000)

WALTZ TIME (Four-Continents)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,500)

INDIANAPOLIS

All grosses here were depressed by a blizzard. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 11-12:

WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,700)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,800)

THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $14,400)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and GAME OF DEATH (RKO Radio reissue)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,700)

MINNEAPOLIS

Grosses are clinging to near-average levels despite bitter weather and a heavy schedule of sports attractions. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 13:

THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—CENTURY (1,600) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,500)

WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,400)

STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE (20th-Fox reissue)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U-I)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,500)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $18,000)

SWELL GUY (U-I)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,500)

CINCINNATI

Business on all fronts retarded by several days of near-zero temperatures and heavy snows. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 11-14:

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $10,000)

HOME IN OKLAHOMA (Rep.) and DON RICARDO RETURNS (PRC)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,600)

BLIND SPOT (Col.) and LAWLESS BREED (U)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,000. (Average: $1,100)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $8,000)

I'LL BE YOURS (U)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,500)

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Grand. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $15,000)

TORONTO

All but one Toronto first-run had a new program for the week, and a British feature played simultaneously at two of the Famous Players houses. There was plenty of snow and the mercury was low. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 12-13:

BEDELIA (Eagle-Lion)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $4,700)

NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $14,300)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $13,300)

CLOAK AND DAGGER (WB)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,100. (Average: $14,600)

I'LL BE YOURS (UI)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $12,400. (Average: $11,400)

BEDELIA (Eagle-Lion)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,800)

ATLANTA

Grosses have been only moderate, the weather very cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 12:

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c) Gross: $11,000. (Average: $13,000)

LADY LUCK (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c) Gross: $7,900. (Average: $8,200)

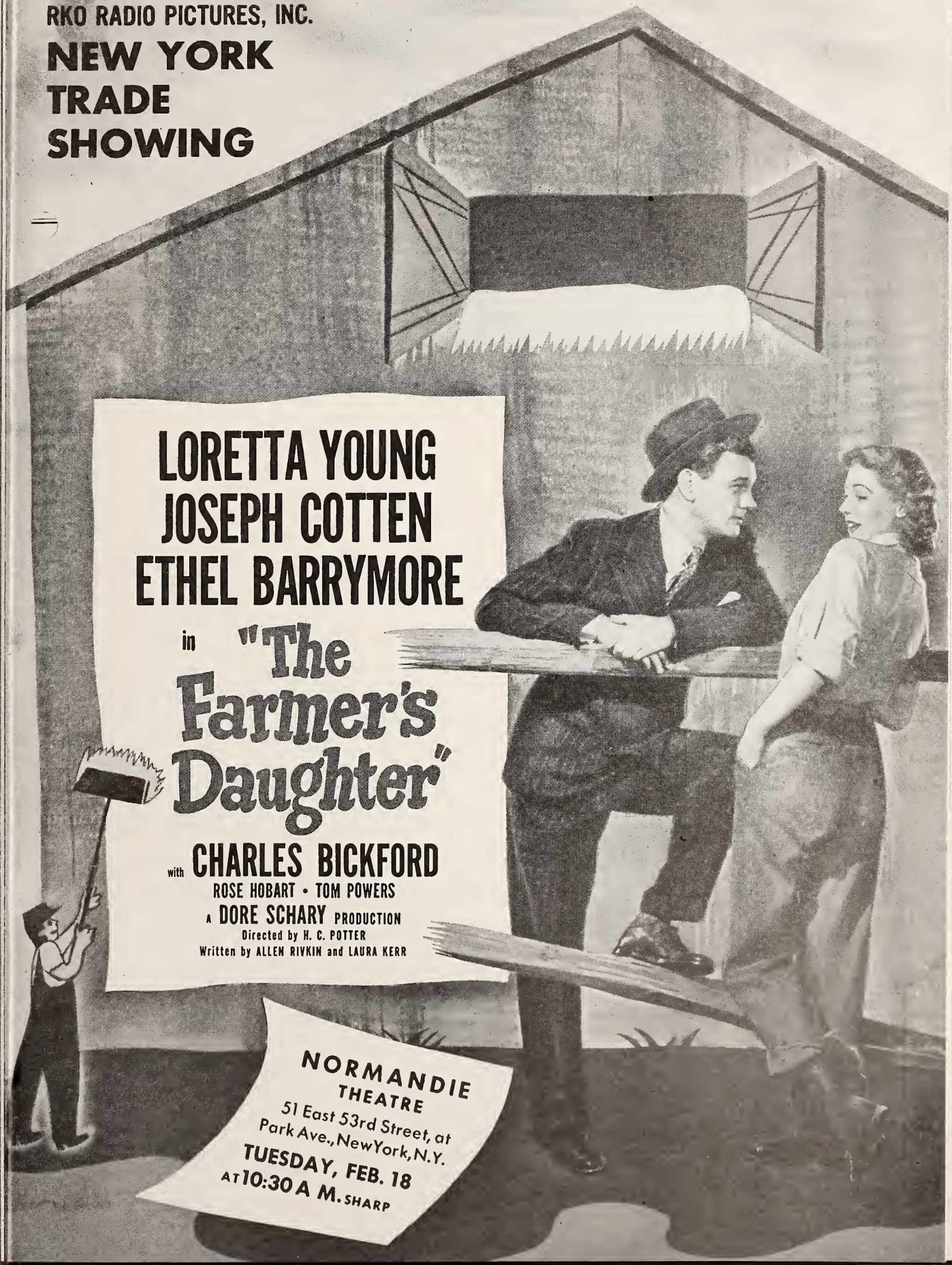
TILL THE END OF TIME (RKO Radio) ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) Gross: $5,300. (Average: $5,600)

ELDORADO (Rep.) and LARCENY IN HER HEART (PRC)—CAPITOL (2,446) (44c-50c) Gross: $4,700. (Average: $4,200)

THE CHASE (UA)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (55c-60c) Gross: $12,000. (Average: $15,000)

RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING



Halt British

(*Continued from page* 1)

developments almost hourly as government instructions are amended as rapidly as new conferences can be held. A possible but hardly hoped for definition of governmental instructions could come at the conclusion of the House of Commons debate late tonight..

Today's newsreel issues were dispatched from the laboratories but it is unlikely that any more issues will be permitted until the emergency has ended. Transportation is continuing, making possible film service to theatres for as long as the present supply of prints lasts.

Trade showings and special press previews are forbidden except in the presence of ordinary theatre customers from 4:00 P. M. on.

Distributors' Wardour Street offices are operating by candlelight and in the hope that essential services to theatres may be continued. All exploitation services have been virtually abandoned. Some distributors, including Americans of lesser prominence, planned to hold trade showings in private screening places, thinking thereby to get by the government's restrictions, but these have been severely censured.

Laboratories

(*Continued from page* 1)

on that date unless the union's demands are granted before then. Under Federal law, 30 days' notice of a pending strike must be given.

Along with the pay increase, Local 702 seeks to cut the Eastern technicians' work week from 40 to 35 hours, to increase paid vacations from two to three weeks annually and to obtain a five per cent health and accident fund, plus additional holidays. The strike action was accompanied by a vote to assess each member one dollar to build up a strike fund.

Negotiations, which began Jan. 29, will be resumed on Thursday afternoon at the Fraternal Clubhouse here.

Marino Producing Carolina Newsreel

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 10.—Establishment here of the Town Topics Film Corp., which will produce a monthly newsreel of the Carolinas, is announced by Sam Marino, who will produce.

Three camera crews of two men each are already traveling over the Carolinas. Astor Films will distribute. Associated with Marino will be William Laslie, former salesman for Paramount here.

"WOMAN SPEAKS"
NOW PLAYING
AT BALABAN & KATZ'
FIRST-RUN LOOP
GARRICK THEATRE
ALSO BOOKED FOR
43 OTHER
B & K CIRCUIT HOUSES
Distributed by Film Studios of Chicago

Mexico Maps Film Tariff Program

Mexican film interests, hard pressed since the end of the war, are now at work mapping out a program of trade agreements in order to guarantee recognition of Mexican product, Miquel Contreras Torres, Mexican producer and director, revealed here yesterday on the eve of his scheduled departure for Spain where he will film a biography of Hernando Cortez for Hispano Continental Films, joint Spanish-Mexican venture.

Spurred by the war to produce for home consumption, the Mexican industry has experienced a lull now that American companies are once again feeding the popular demand for "light entertainment instead of heavy wartime subjects," he continued. While there is no quota in operation at present, he added, Mexican picture interests are urging the adoption of prohibitive tariffs to discourage nations which refuse to accept Mexican films in exchange for admission of theirs to Mexico.

NY Realty Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

scribed as the most highly priced theatre property in the city. Only two Broadway area film theatres, according to the report submitted to Mayor O'Dwyer by Harry B. Chambers, president of the City Tax Commission, escaped with unaltered assessed valuations. They are the Ambassador, held to its previous $470,000 valuation, and the Winter Garden, again listed at $2,210,000.

In the office building category, 20th Century-Fox's properties on the far West Side, including the home office and studio buildings, are valued at $305,000 over the present fiscal year's $1,845,000, while the Loew-M-G-M home office building, which houses Loew's State Theatre, jumped in valuation from $3,800,000 to $3,960,000. Warner Bros.' West Side office properties, comprising four parcels, emerged with a new assessment of $1,270,000 compared with a 1946-47 assessment of $1,194,000.

Reverting to theatre properties, it is found that the Astor's valuation has risen from $1,700,000 to $1,810,000; the Capitol's valuation has been boosted from $2,275,000 to $2,300,000; the building housing the Criterion has been newly listed at $6,700,000, compared with the 1946-47 valuation of $6,575,000.

The comparative figures for other theatres or the buildings which house them are as follows: Globe, from $980,000 to $1,150,000; Hollywood, $1,000,000 to $1.050,000; Palace, $1,250,000 to $1,290,000; Rialto, $2,850,000 to $3,000,000; Rivoli, $1,450,000 to $1,475,000; Strand, $3,125,000 to $3,300,000.

The Roxy Theatre, 20th-Fox's New York showcase, previously assessed at $4,350,000, is now valued at $4,440,000. Radio City Music Hall, a unit of Rockefeller Center, is not individually listed. The city regards the entire Center as being worth $98,600,000.

The increased real estate assessment trend applies to all five New York boroughs, and theatre properties generally at locations other than in Manhattan are said to have also been assessed at amounts considerably above those established for 1946-47.

Edison Centennial

(*Continued from page* 1)

Fox president, who, along with Miss Pickford, is a member of both the Centennial Committee and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, is not expected to be able to get to New York from the Coast in time to attend the dinner, but will be represented by executives of his company. The Foundation has announced a $2,590,000 campaign to carry out scientific projects during the next 10 years.

Donald E. Hyndman, past president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, will attend tonight's dinner as head of a committee representing that group. Other SMPE members expected are E. A. Bertram, J. A. Maurer, D. J. Joy and E. I. Sponable. Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, also is on the Centennial Committee, but the pressure of business is expected to keep him in Washington.

Others representing the industry at today's luncheon will be Glendon Allvine, executive secretary of the Eastern Public Information Committee, and Joel Swenson of Warner Bros.

Industry participation in the Edison Centennial began last week when the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers honored the inventor at a luncheon at the Town Hall Club and forwarded a contribution to the Centennial Committee.

Among Edison's inventions which are basic to the industry are the Kinetoscope, electric light, phonograph, transmitter, microphone, radio valve and amplifying tube. The last of his film productions was "The Unbelievers," in 1916.

Allied

(*Continued from page* 1)

be given the advantage of techniques used in situations where local regulation has been prevented or eliminated," Myers said.

As an illustration, he said that he will send the Allied membership a detailed report on how local admission taxes were avoided by theatres in two situations. "I will not mention the names of people or cities. We will give the regionals a first hand and detailed account of the techniques used to prevent passage of local tax levies," Myers added.

"All exhibitors want to know what attracts regulation and control, such as censorship and age limits," Myers said. "When these cases develop and the exhibitor knows the reason the regulation was imposed, we will distribute that information to Allied regionals," he concluded.

Myers said that the bulletins will be kept confidential. "This is necessary because we don't want to broadcast our methods of combating regulation," he said.

3-Day Promotion For 'Best Years'

DENVER, Feb. 10.—Today through Wednesday are "Virginia Mayo Days" in Denver. The Samuel Goldwyn star arrived today and was met at the station by a band and representatives of civic organizations. During the three days in Denver she is being feted at luncheons, dinners and cocktail parties, and serving as Mr. Goldwyn's representative at the screening of "The Best Years of Our Lives" for local dignitaries and press representatives.

Price to Ad Group: Promote Free Trade

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10.—Advertising's supreme mission is to find a convincing way to exploit not only the products of free enterprise but free enterprise itself, Byron Price, board chairman of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, will tell the Los Angeles Advertising Club meeting in the Biltmore Hotel here tomorrow.

"It is only in free countries that advertising flourishes," Price will say. "In a totalitarian country there is no point in presenting to the people the merits of individual products. The people simply have to take what the government provides and be satisfied with it.

"Other nations have their own national concepts, as is their right, but here in the United States we are devoted to free enterprise. Being so devoted, either we must give up free enterprise or we must defend it."

Price will describe prohibitive tariff walls and quotas as "part and parcel" of an obsolete doctrine of isolation and will say they have no place in the new order dedicated to free association and world unity.

Raibourn

(*Continued from page* 1)

mission a statement objecting to the immediate establishment of transmission standards for color television as proposed by Columbia Broadcasting System.

In his argument, Raibourn points to the experience of the film industry, stating that program content is "much more important" than color. This is the conclusion he draws from the fact, as he puts it, that "after 40 years of development of color processes, the motion picture industry, because of production difficulties and costs inherent in connection with color, finds only about 10 per cent of its feature production in color."

Numerous hearings on the CBS petition to put its color televison on a commercial basis have been conducted both here and in New York.

Ontario Tightening

(*Continued from page* 1)

or manager had neglected to advertise a graded picture as "adult entertainment."

The advertised classification of a feature, as designated by the Ontario Board of Censors, will be made compulsory in another amendment, to become effective July 1, following a year's trial on the voluntary segregation of films by exhibitors.

The rumor is also heard that the legislature will consider the revival of the 10 per cent amusement tax, which was abolished in 1939 by a previous government. This would be on top of a Federal 20 per cent excise war tax on theatre grosses, which applies to theatres throughout the Dominion.

Cinema Stamp Meet

The next meeting of the Cinema Stamp Collectors, here, will be held tonight at the New York Museum of Science and Industry in the RCA Building. All stamp collectors identified with the industry are invited to attend. Nat Cohn is president.

Include British as Award Candidates

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10.—Titles of pictures and names of persons nominated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the annual awards to be made on March 13 in the Shrine Auditorium include four placements for England for the first time. Jean Hersholt, Academy president, made the announcement of nominations as follows:

For the best picture: "Best Years of Our Lives," "Henry V" (British), "It's a Wonderful Life," "Razor's Edge," "The Yearling."

Best performance by an actor: Fredric March, for "Best Years"; Laurence Olivier," Henry V"; Larry Parks, "Jolson Story"; Gregory Peck, "The Yearling"; James Stewart, "It's a Wonderful life."

Best performance by an actress: Olivia De Havilland, for "To Each His Own"; Celia Johnson, "Brief Encounter"; Jennifer Jones, "Duel in the Sun"; Rosalind Russell, "Sister Kenny"; Jane Wyman, "The Yearling."

Best performance by a supporting actor: Charles Coburn, for "Green Years,"; William Demarest, "Jolson Story"; Claude Rains," "Notorious"; Harold Russell, "Best Years"; Clifton Webb, "Razor's Edge."

Best performance by a supporting actress: Ethel Barrymore, for "Spiral Staircase"; Anne Baxter, "Razor's Edge"; Lillian Gish, "Duel in the Sun"; Flora Robson, "Saratoga Trunk"; Gale Sondargaard, "Anna and the King of Siam."

Best direction: William Wyler, for "Best Years"; David Lean, "Brief Encounter"; Frank Capra, "Wonderful Life"; Robert Siodmak, "The Killers"; Clarence Brown, "The Yearling."

Casey Gets Request

(*Continued from page* 1)

strike situation. We demand a conference for the purpose of negotiating contracts with a view to arriving at a speedy settlement of the present labor controversy," the C. S. U. message said.

CSU's communication was turned over to the producers' labor committee for consideration, following which a reply will be made with regard to the substantial change in the basic status of the relationship between the internationals and locals which has taken place.

Bekeris, Nebel Get U. A. Latin Posts

Sam Bekeris, United Artists' general manager in Argentina, has been appointed supervisor for Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Bolivia, by Walter Gould, foreign manager here. Leon Nebel, assistant manager in Peru, has been named manager, replacing Victor Schochet, who has resigned from that post.

Isaac Seldner, 81

Funeral services will be held at Riverside Memorial Chapel, here, this afternoon for Isaac Seldner, 81, relief manager of Loew's Mayfair Theater, who died on Sunday of a heart attack at his home. He was among the oldest active managers of the Loew Metropolitan circuit.

Reviews

"Michigan Kid"

(*Universal*)

RUGGED ACTION and an almost uninterrupted current of barking guns and hard-and-fast riding are skillfully integrated into "Michigan Kid" to make it an exciting picture with strong entertainment value and equally strong box-office potentialities. Capped by a roster of familiar faces and displaying the qualities of deft handling in all phases, the picture, which is in Cinecolor, was produced by Howard Welsch and directed by Ray Taylor, with a direction by Fritz Collings.

Jon Hall, enacting the title role, leaves the U. S. Cavalry after completing a hitch in the campaign against the Sioux Indians to settle down on the frontier for some farming, but is sidetracked when he breaks up an attempted stage coach robbery. A wealthy frontiersman, conveying a small fortune, is mortally wounded in the fray, buries his treasure and enlists Hall's aid to see that Rita Johnson, the dying man's niece, gets the money. Several attempts are made upon Hall's life by Victor McLaglen and his crew of culprits, and Miss Johnson and the hero end up in jail on a murder charge for a short spell before Andy Devine, a hitherto peaceful, warm-hearted stage driver, unmasks himself as the "brains" of the robbers. Hall and Miss Johnson, who has suspected him of being tied up with the thieves, finish in a clinch. Others in the cast are Milburn Stone, William Brooks and Leonard East, as Hall's Army buddies who respond to his call for help, and Stanley Andrews, as the sheriff. The scenario and story were penned by Roy Chanslor, with additional dialogue by Robert Presnell, Sr., from a story suggested by Rex Beach's "Michigan Kid."

Running time, 69 minutes. General audience clasification. Release date not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

"Millie's Daughter"

(*Columbia*)

A FAIRLY substantial story concerning an 18-year-old girl forced to choose between the austere mode of living dictated by her guardian aunt and the more colorful but haphazard existence which she would find with her mother is given adequate presentation in "Millie's Daughter." Gladys George, Gay Nelson, Paul Campbell and Ruth Donnelly are the principal performers in the sufficiently effective drama.

Edward Huebsch's screenplay, based on the novel by Donald Henderson Clarke, opens in Boston where Miss Nelson in the title role decides to escape the domain of her aunt, Ethel Griffies, to join her mother, Miss George, in Florida, thus forfeiting a huge inheritance which she would receive in three years.

Miss George, engaged in promoting social affairs for the benefit of herself and wealthy clients trying to join the exclusive set, welcomes her daughter at the outset but soon comes to realize that her place is rightly in Boston. Campbell's chore is to induce Miss Nelson to return to protect her financial interests. They fall in love of course but complications set in when one of Miss George's promoting schemes backfires. Her client's check is returned as worthless and the bills are piling up. Although she might have avoided it, Miss George places herself at the wrong end of embezzlement charges in order to force her daughter back to Boston.

Under Sidney Salkow's direction, the story is told directly and well, except for a few instances of over-emphasized dramatics. William Bloom produced. Others in the cast are Norma Varden, Arthur Space, Nana Bryant, Harry Hayden, Paul Maxey and Robert Emmett Keane.

Running time, 72 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

GENE ARNEEL

Mack Gets Chambers As Advertising Head

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—Don Chambers, associated with Paramount theatre affiliates for 19 years, has been appointed advertising-publicity director for Filmack Corp. by Irving Mack, sales head. Chambers succeeds Harold Pearlman, who has been appointed sales representative for Filmack in Wisconsin.

Chambers was advertising manager for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., circuit comprising 18 houses, with headquarters in Springfield, Mass., also district advertising manager for M. and P. Theatres, Boston, and circuit advertising manager for Minnesota Amusement Co.

Mack also announced the appointment of Robert Griffith as assistant to Chambers. Griffith, recently discharged from the Army, was formerly manager of the Ken Theatre, Chicago.

DeMille En Route Here

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 10. — Cecil B. DeMille is on his way to New York by train to address school children on "The Bill of Rights" by radio.

Committee Named for Coast Variety Dinner

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—Plans for a Variety club here are being formulated by Rotus Harvey, chairman, and a committee composed of Ollie Watson, Jack Marpole and Leslie Jacobs. The advisory committee includes Abe Blumenfeld, Blumenfeld Theatres; Roy Cooper, Golden State Theatres, and Neal East of Paramount Pictures.

The possibility of securing a nightclub in the Tivoli Theatre Building, which is completely equipped and new, is being investigated. It is now owned by Blumenfeld.

Circuit to Celebrate Martin's Anniversary

ATLANTA, Feb. 10.—R. E. Martin's 35th anniversary as a motion picture exhibitor will be celebrated throughout his circuit from Feb. 17 to March 1. Special contests between theatres in the circuit and local publicity in their towns will be staged and an anniversary dinner in Atlanta will wind up the affair.

'Brotherhood Week' Phila. Promotion

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 10.—A campaign to foster "American Brotherhood Week" in Philadelphia is being set up by the motion picture division of that city, according to Mike Weiss, field exploiteer handling details for the drive locally. Arrangements have been made to have the mayor start the drive Feb. 16, with a proclamation urging all citizens to participate in the campaign against intolerance of minorities.

Also planned are special cards on all trolley cars and busses announcing the National Conference of Christians and Jews' program. The *PTC Traveller,* circulated in street cars, busses and subways, will devote its front cover to the drive. All branch managers in exchanges are being urged to have their salesmen contact theatres to set up plans for securing a minimum of 10 pledges in every theatre. All theatres will show the special featurette produced by David O. Selznick, which will be tacked on to all newsreels during the week of Feb. 16-23.

Connors Releases Schedule On 'Brotherhood' Reels

A complete schedule of newsreel issues carrying the message of "American Brotherhood Week" will be announced here today by Tom Connors, chairman of the distributors' committee for the drive. This is the first time that newsreels released during a single period have given blanket coverage to such a subject. Both first and subsequent runs of every newsreel released will feature the special trailer produced by David Selznick for the one-week drive against intolerance.

Warner House Plans Face Upset in Ohio

CHILLICOTHE, O., Feb. 10.—Plans for improving Warner's Sherman Theatre here will be upset if the city gains control of what is known as "the old canal land," for which the city council has submitted a bid, Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, with headquarters in Cleveland, declared here.

The theatre represents an investment of between $150,000 and $200,000, Wolf said.

Monte Carlo

"PREVIEW ROOM"

. . . will really SELL your picture.

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Cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners served in this versatile room — setting a gay mood for a favorable reaction to your film.

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ART WEST AND HIS SUNSET RIDERS

Screenplay by Louise Rousseau

Directed by RAY NAZARRO · Produced by COLBERT CLARK

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 30 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1947 TEN CENTS

Para. to Meet On Splitting; Bidding Starts

Raibourn Sees Split of Partly Owned Houses

Paramount officials and the company's theatre partners will meet in Florida next week to consider ways and means of complying with the New York trust suit decision, particularly that part of it which declares illegal a film company's ownership of between five and 95 per cent of a theatre.

The New York decree allows a maximum of two years for the divestiture of such holdings. Paul Raibourn, Paramount vice-president, stated last week that a decision has yet to be reached on the procedure to be followed, adding, however, it is his "guess" that the company would split the theatres it holds in partnership on a numerical basis, Paramount, for example, taking 10 theatres of a 20-house circuit in which it holds a 50 per cent interest.

Both Barney Balaban, Paramount

(*Continued on page 6*)

Ask Theatre Aid on Red Cross Drive

National theatre participation in the 1947 drive of the American Red Cross, which will be under way throughout the month of March, was requested yesterday by Harvey D. Gibson, national fund chairman, and other Red Cross and industry officials at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor here yesterday attended by trade press representatives.

Theatres will be asked only to run

(*Continued on page 6*)

Optics an Issue at FCC Video Hearing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The function of the human eye became the subject of bitter disagreement as it relates to color television when the Federal Communications Commission continued hearings yesterday on the Columbia Broadcasting System's petition for ultra high frequency standards for its color television system.

Appearing in behalf of CBS, Dr.

(*Continued on page 6*)

UA Directors Vote Appeal

United Artists' board of directors on Tuesday approved plans to appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, it was announced by Edward C. Raftery, president. Indications are that the company's appeal will be filed prior to March 1.

Raftery, who represented UA as counsel at the trial of the case, told the court that he expected to appeal from the decree's ban on the fixing of minimum admission prices, which prevents road-showing of the numerous high-budget pictures made by UA's producers.

In addition, UA has indicated that it will appeal from the system of competitive bidding set up by the court and from the decree provision which places the proof of "reasonable" clearance upon the distributor.

Universal Plans to Appeal Next Week

Universal's appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit will be filed in Federal District Court here next week or, at the latest, the early part of the week following, according to Thomas Turner Cooke, special counsel for the company. Columbia's appeal filed on Feb. 6, is the only one so far on record.

(*Continued on page 7*)

3 British Studios Use Own Generators

London, Feb. 12.—The Denham, Pinewood and Ealing studios, London, were operating by means of private generating equipment yesterday while most of industrial England was crippled by the power crisis. Gainsborough's Shepherd's Bush and Islington studios, and Associated British Cinema's Welwyn studios have closed down.

The Riverside and Twickenham studios, owned now by the newly-formed Alliance Film Studios, purchased a Diesel plant last week-end, and are operating on an hour-to-hour basis.

Conn. Would Censor Films for Children

HARTFORD, Feb. 12.—A bill which would establish a board of motion picture censors in Connecticut to approve films for exhibition to children under 14, has been introduced in the legislature. The measure would provide for appointment of a five-man censor board by the governor. The board would include representatives of theatres, the state Parent-Teachers' Association, the clergy, and the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association.

Also introduced is a bill prohibiting children under 14 from attending amusement places without guardians.

'IA' Is Seen Exercising Cost-of-Living Clause

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—The first announced intention to exercise the cost-of-living clause in studio labor contracts negotiated since all unions entered an interim agreement last July has been made by Richard Walsh, IATSE president, who says that producers will be approached on the matter following receipt of official labor statistics.

The interim agreement, which ended a two-day strike, stipulated that wages would not be made an issue between July and January, and that contracts completed during that period could be reopened for consideration of pay increases if living costs advanced five per cent or more. It is believed that all crafts will seek increases proportionate to whatever living-cost increase is shown by the figures.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Studio carpenters have applied to William Hutcheson, president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, for authority to negotiate contracts with a view to arriving at a speedy settlement of the present studio strike, according to a Conference of Studio Unions spokesman. They expect a favorable response but are disposed to proceed without it if necessary, in unison with other CSU crafts, he added.

ATA's Appeal Plan Claims Bidding Illegal

System Is Beyond Even Congress Power: Arnold

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — That the proposed competitive bidding system is illegal "even beyond the authority of the Congress to prescribe," will be the keynote of an appeal from the lower court's denial to intervene in the New York industry anti-trust suit to be submitted to the U. S. Supreme Court next week by Thurman Arnold, counsel for the American Theatres Association.

In an interview here, Arnold scoffed at the idea that exhibitors will suffer as a result of intervention. He said: "The exhibitor is bound by the final litigation anyway. Why shouldn't he have his say before the court?"

ATA claims that the system of bidding will drastically affect the exhibitors' access to films necessary to

(*Continued on page 6*)

WB Quarterly Net Is $7,203,000

Net profit of $7,203,000, equivalent to 97 cents a share on the 7,402,180 shares of common stock outstanding, was reported by Warner Brothers and subsidiaries for the three months ending Nov. 30, 1946. This compares with a net profit of $4,367,000, or 59

(*Continued on page 6*)

New Variety Tent For New Haven

A group in the amusement business in and around New Haven have petitioned the national tent for a charter, R. J. O'Donnell, national chief barker, reports. All tents in the organization are now voting on the application.

C. J. Latta, second assistant national

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"Sea of Grass" is reviewed on page 4. Key city grosses are given on pages 4 and 5.

Personal Mention

MALCOLM KINGSBERG, president of RKO Theatres, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

LYNN FARNOL, Samuel Goldwyn Productions publicist, will be in Philadelphia and Washington at various times this week, BEN WASHER will be in Baltimore and Washington, BILL RUDER will be in Pittsburgh, and MISS LLEWELYN MILLER will spend next week in Minneapolis. All headquarter in New York.

•

FAY FITZGIBBONS, daughter of E. G. FITZGIBBONS, Paramount exploitation head in Chicago, will be married tomorrow to PAIGE OFFUTT, Aurora, Ill., realtor, at the First Presbyterian Church, Aurora.

•

HILLER INNES, executive assistant to RUSSELL HOLMAN, Paramount's Eastern production head, left New York yesterday for a West Indies vacation.

•

LOUIS HYMAN, executive vice-president of Sol Lesser Productions, will return to the Coast from New York today.

•

WILLIAM SISTROM, J. Arthur Rank-Two Cities producer, has returned to New York from Hollywood, en route to England.

•

CLIFFORD JEAPES, director of the J. Arthur Rank British Pictorial Productions and Film Laboratories, is in Rochester from New York.

•

JOHN J. JONES, Screen Guild president, boarded the Super Chief for Chicago, en route to New York yesterday.

•

MRS. H. RUSSELL, Millersburg, O., theatre owner, is convalescing at University Hospital, Columbus, after an operation.

•

ARTHUR DICKINSON, Motion Picture Association executive, has been confined to his home by illness.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager for Warners, is in Buffalo from New York.

•

GEORGE PAL, Paramount Puppetoons producer, left New York for Hollywood yesterday.

•

CECIL BARKER, special assistant to DAVID O. SELZNICK, is en route to New York from the Coast.

•

RALPH MCCOY, special representative for Eagle-Lion, has returned to Atlanta from Memphis.

•

HARRY PAUL, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply, Atlanta, is a Miami visitor.

•

NASH WEIL, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply vice-president, has returned to Atlanta from Texas.

•

JACK L. WARNER will leave New York for the Coast over the weekend.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

T. P. TAYLOR, who owns the property occupied by the Vogue theatre in suburban Louisville, is plaintiff in a lawsuit against William Rosenthal of Rosenthal Theatre Enterprises, Indianapolis, which operates the house. Taylor contends the lease entitles him, as landlord, to a minimum rent, or 12 per cent of the gross receipts, depending upon which is larger, and charges Rosenthal, as operator, has failed to include candy sales in those receipts. Therefore, he is seeking an accounting.

■

In the recent past, there have been scattered references by one national circuit executive and one national distributor, at least, to the relationship between grosses and candy and/or popcorn sales. The Louisville action, however, appears to be the first time a landlord has stepped into the situation, propelled by his apparent conviction and his specific allegation that the two amount to the same thing.

■

No one, restrained by caution, can foretell the outcome of this action or what precedents at law it may establish. Exhibitor and distributors, however, no doubt will keep an eye peeled on this twist because of its potential application to their continuing business dealings. No one, moreover, should get the idea this is piddling stuff. It isn't.

■

Millions of dollars in candy bars, etc., are sold annually in theatres up and down the broad reaches of this country. Considered opinion in circles where snap jugdments are perpetually barred yesterday suggested there are those situations where grosses from candy and assorted by-products run as high as 25 per cent of the total take. Whether the distributor, playing percentage, may be declared in on this phase of a theatre's overall receipts is likely to become a topic of increasing interest as time goes by.

■

Meanwhile, a peer into the unpredictable future might well incorporate the possibility that distributors will be confronted with the need to write a different kind of contract. Maybe "Andy Hardy" will have to be sold, less O. Henry. Or three at 40 per cent, less Snickers, and two at 30 per cent, plus Milky Ways. Perhaps it will be a split figure above 680 bags [of popcorn, that is.]

But whatever it is, distributors will be compelled to remember U. S. versus Paramount. Price-fixing is out. That goes for admissions. It may go for candy and popcorn, too.

■ ■

Already reported have been partial highlights of the preferential distribution deal originally entered between Vanguard and United Artists. The action for $6,500,000 filed by David O. Selznick's company against the latter in Los Angeles tells more. The producer who notes this and successfully resists calling upon his current selling agent on a "me, too" basis would be a rare bird, indeed.

■

Here is what UA got, or what Selznick paid:

"On gross receipts in the United States up to $800,000, a fee equal to 25 per cent of said receipts.

"On gross receipts in the United States in excess of $800,000, a fee equal to 10 per cent of the amount of said receipts in excess of $800,000.

"On gross receipts in Canada up to $50,000, a fee equal to 25 per cent of said receipts.

"On gross receipts in Canada in excess of $50,000, a fee equal to 10 per cent of the amount of said receipts in excess of $50,000.

"On gross receipts in England up to 90,000 pounds sterling, a fee equal to 25 per cent of said receipts.

"On gross receipts in England in excess of 90,000 pounds sterling, a fee equal to 10 per cent of the amount of said receipts in excess of 90,000 pounds sterling."

■

Selznick's multi-million suit, incidentally, occasions the remark his action must have been predicated on portal-to-portal pay.

■ ■

Forty-three per cent of Universal's total gross in its last fiscal year came from overseas. Having a partner like J. Arthur Rank with almost 1,500 theatres here, there and everywhere seems to be paying off.

■ ■

Boris Morros to Paul N. Lazarus, Jr.: "How are you, darling? Come up right away, will you? I want you to pace the floor with me."

Newsreel Parade

"BROTHERHOOD WEEK," which starts Sunday, is given emphasis in most current newsreels and so is the centennial celebration of Thomas A. Edison's birthday. Other domestic happenings spotlighted are: another round in the battle of the Georgia governors, yacht racing and other sports, and the Army diamond theft cases. News items from abroad include the British coal crisis and Marshal Montgomery's visit with Stalin. Complete contents follo

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 48 — . .tish coal crisis during cold wave paralyzes general industry. Battle of Georgia governors goes into the courts. Marshal Montgomery gets coat from Stalin. Thomas Edison's old desk opened on his 100th anniversary. Ocean storm drives sea lions to seek shelter. Sports: crewmen train at Washington University, yachting, trotting horses race on ice.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 246—Britain paralyzed by coal famine. European continent snowed in. Edison mystery dispelled. Battle of Georgia governors continues. Marshal Montgomery meets Stalin. "Brotherhood Week" begins throughout nation. Bill Stern's sport topics: Thomas Lipton cup race in Miami. Washington University rowing crew trains.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 49 — Lipton cup yacht classic. Italians flee city of Pola given to Yugoslavia. Montgomery visits Stalin. Drive for "American Brotherhood" starts. Nation marks Thomas A. Edison centennial. School for umpires.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 51—Courts in Georgia governor's battle. Italians leave Pola. Army colonel held with $21,000 worth of diamonds. Filippinos train on West Coast. One-legged ski champ. "Brotherhood Week" begins.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 12—Nation honors Thomas A. Edison. Montgomery visits Stalin. "Brotherhood Week." Crewmen train at Washington University. Lipton cup races. French cross-country bike races.

Sponsors Seek Vote On License Bills

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—With neither opposition nor support from any quarter, the Condon-Wilson bills, which would expand the power of the motion picture division of the State Education Department to revoke a theatre's license if any advertising of a film shown in a theatre is "obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious, or inciting to crime," have been requested to be reported out of the Senate Assembly Education Commitees by the sponsors.

The bills, recommended by the Education Department, are rooted in the recent decision by the Regents Board denying the attempt by New York City License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding to prohibit exhibition of the picture because of its advertising.

Army Admissions Raised

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Admission increases at U. S. Army theatres, of from 15 to 20 cents for adults and 10 to 15 cents for children, will be effected at Army theatres in the Continental U. S., Alaska, Bermuda, Newfoundland and the Azores, but will not apply to the European Theatre of Operations, it is revealed by Fred Bund, chief of the Army Motion Picture Service.

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This is the man she loves..

WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE THE POWER OF

"PURSUED"

. . . SHOWINGS FOR THE TRADE FEB. 17th

RESA WRIGHT ROBERT MITCHUM in MILTON SEELING'S PRODUCTION of NIVEN BUSCH'S "PURSUED" with JUDITH ANDERSON • DEAN JAGGER • ALAN HALE and Introducing JOHN RODNEY
Directed by RAOUL WALSH • Produced by UNITED STATES PICTURES for WARNER

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Of three new pictures at first-runs, "San Quentin" did the best business. Weather has been changeable. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 12:

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,900)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $16,000.
THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $11,600. (Average: $11,500)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $19,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $7,700)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $27,000.
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $7,600)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,700)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $8,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,700)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $11,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $26,200)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $24,600)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $6,100)
THE CHASE (UA) — MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,300. (Average: $15,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,250. (Average: $6,000)
THE CHASE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $5,800)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $16,000)

Review

"Sea of Grass"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

Hollywood, Feb. 12

PRODUCED with painstaking deliberation and on the grand scale by Pandro S. Berman, and with Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Robert Walker and Melvyn Douglas heading a marquee cast including such dependables as Harry Carey, Edgar Buchanan and Robert Armstrong, Conrad Richter's 10-year-old novel of infidelity and bastardy, set in the New Mexico of 1880, is strong entertainment in both meanings of the terms. In common with most other well made films dealing with themes not customarily presented on the screen, this one possesses great narrative power and emotional impact. Unlike most others, it does not sensationalize the moral lapse which is the root of the principal plot interest, but dwells rather upon its far-reaching consequences. Nevertheless, it is strictly adult material, and candidly handled as such by Marguerite Roberts and Vincent Lawrence in their script and by Elia Kazan in his highly effective direction. That it will do big business may be set down as a foregone conclusion.

The picture opens with Miss Hepburn, a St. Louis socialite, going to New Mexico to marry Tracy, a cattle baron defending his million acres of grass land from homesteading farmers championed by Douglas, an attorney, who becomes enamoured of Miss Hepburn on sight. After marriage to Tracy and birth of their daughter, Miss Tracy feels that her husband's intense devotion to his holdings, and to beliefs about them which she does not wholly share, is neglecting her, and after discussing the matter with him she goes to Denver, with his assent, to do some shopping and "some thinking." There, by coincidence, she meets Douglas, to whom she confides her state of mind and her decision to return to St. Louis. He tells her that they belong together, and she accepts the idea and his attentions, but changes her mind next morning and decides she must return to her husband, whom she says she will tell what has happened.

Back on the ranch, she withholds the confession of infidelity, but suspicion of it dawns on her husband when she talks in the delirium accompanying birth of Douglas' son. However, two years pass before, under stress of circumstances incidental to his defense of his lands, Tracy charges her with the infidelity and she admits the boy is Douglas'. She returns to St. Louis, where her attorney tells her she can obtain custody of the boy by professing his real paternity in court, but she decides against this course and keeps track of him, Tracy and their daughter, by mail communication with the local doctor and, after he has died, with Douglas, who becomes a judge.

Tracy, who during the years loses his hold on the land but sees his prediction that farmers will ruin it come true, rears the boy as his own. But the boy, learning from town gossip the facts of his parentage, becomes a reckless youth, given to gambling and fast enough on the trigger to kill a poker opponent who taunts him about his birth. He flees the town and hides out from a posse which is closing in on him when Tracy reaches him first and cradles him in his arms as he dies. The mother, who has read of the boy's trouble in the newspapers and determined to go to him, arrives in town after the death and is persuaded by her daughter to return to the ranch, where she and Tracy are reconciled as the picture ends.

The story of the land, Tracy's defense of it in the beginning and its dissipation by the farmers in the end, provides numerous melodramatic incidents and interludes of conflict which background the story of the faithless wife and her illegitimate son. The staging of all of these is masterly, and the performances of all principals and the many minor players are excellent.

Running time, 125 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,100)
BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $27,500)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $24,100)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $15,400)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,600. (Average: $9,300)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) — STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,100)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $21,600)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $16,100)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,700)

BEWARE!

DON'T SIGN until you first learn about Filmack's New Prevue Trailer Service—ready NOW! Write, wire, phone Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill.

DENVER

Beautiful weather gave first-runs good to big business for the most part. "Henry V" broke the house record at the Esquire and will hold. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 12:

HUMORESQUE (WB)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) — DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $11,500)
MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.) — DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Webber. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
HENRY V (UA)—ESQUIRE (742) ($1.20-$2.40) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $3,500)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) and BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2d week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,500)
THE CHASE (UA) and DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC) — PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,000)
MAGNIFICENT DOLLL (U-I) an[illegible]N-TLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (M[illegible] — WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day-date with Denver. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

Moderated weather was a boon to attendance. "It's a Wonderful Life" broke all records in its first week here, and "The Jolson Story" broke the hold-over record. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 13:

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U-I) — CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week on a moveover. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,600)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $13,500)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $3,600)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $4,700)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) — UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,800)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $12,000)

OMAHA

Grosses, held back by cold and snowy weather, were below par at two of four first-runs. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 12-13:

HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC) and THE TRUTH ABOUT MURDER (RKO Radio)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,600. (Average: $8,600)
RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M reissue) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA) — ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,400)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—PARAMOUNT(2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,600. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) and SO DARK THE NIGHT (Col.)—RKO-BRANDES (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,200. (Average: $6,800)

KANSAS CITY

Cold, windy weather late last week hit business, which, however, improved over the weekend. Competition from musical and sports events was keen. "Song of the South" led at the box office. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 11-13:

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) — ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) — FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,750)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000)
HELDORADO (Rep.) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,300. (Average: $6,000)

(Continued on page 5)

Key City Grosses

(*Continued from page 4*)

SAN FRANCISCO

"The Angel and the Badman," in its world premiere at the Fox, was the leader here, equalling the house average, while all other films fell below. Estimated receipts for the week end Feb. 13:

JO. Y O'CLOCK (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $14,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and CALENDAR GIRL (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $32,000)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. With vaudeville. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $32,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and THE RAIDER (British)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $23,000)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB) and BEAUTY AND THE BANDIT (Mono.)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and INVISIBLE INFORMER (Rep.)—STATE (2,135) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $13,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $14,000)
ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA) and DETOUR (PRC resisue)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $14,000)

ST. LOUIS

"The Jolson Story" broke the Sunday record at Loew's State and has wound up the week impressively. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 12:

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U-I) and WIFE WANTED (Mono.)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)

$44,000 for 'Duel'

David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun," which has been showing simultaneously in three Hollywood theatres on a road-show basis, grossed $44,000 in its sixth week, the Vanguard office here announces. For six weeks at the Vogue, four at the Fairfax and two at the Egyptian, the total gross thus far is $260,773, Vanguard said.

Says Coast Needs Filming Economies

Shorter preparation and shooting schedules and greater efficiencies in production are the principal ways in which Hollywood can effect economies, Joseph Pasternak, M-G-M producer, declares. Pasternak, accompanied by his wife, is here on an annual jaunt to several localities to "get the feel of the public pulse."

Pasternak revealed that he will adopt a new departure for two of five pictures on his schedule, adding that the technique he employed in "Destry Rides Again," of subordinating musical numbers to the story line would be resumed in "Colorado," which M-G-M has purchased from Louis Bromfield, and "Brothers of the East Side." The others on his program are: "On an Island With You," "The Kissing Bandit" and "Daddy Is a Wolf."

"Cooperation among the various individuals brought together in turning out a picture is another sure way of cutting production time."

Warren Joins Ascap

Harry Warren Music, Inc., West Coast music subsidiary of Loew's, has been elected to membership in the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Urge Unions Placed Under Trust Laws

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Two proposals to outlaw jurisdictional strikes have been made before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. The National Federation of American Shipping recommended a law to ban walkouts designed to obtain recognition of a particular union, while the Phelps-Dodge Corp. of Arizona urged that unions be made subject to the anti-trust laws.

The Shipping Federation stated that the employer should have protection against action by labor organizations to coerce him or otherwise destroy his freedom of action and operation.

Legion Rates Ten Additional Films

The National Legion of Decency has classified 10 additional features, as follows: Class A-I, "The Beginning or the End," M-G-M; "Bringing Up Father" and "West of the Alamo," both Monogram, and "The Fabulous Dorseys," United Artists.

Class A-II, "The Brasher Doubloon," 20th Century-Fox; "Bedelia," Eagle-Lion; "Cigarette Girl," Columbia; "Easy Come, Easy Go," Paramount; "Smash Up," Universal, and "Stallion Road," Warners.

PRESENTS DEBORAH KERR
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THE NEXT GREAT BOX-OFFICE HIT FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT LEADER OF THE INDUSTRY!

Insists That Houses Pay 650% Tax Rise

Dalton, Ga., Feb. 12.—"Pay up on city licenses or lock up by March 1," was the mayor and city council's response to a protest by Martin Theatres that Dalton's new license fee is too high, climbing some 650 per cent.

In a January meeting of the council, the fee for each theatre in Dalton was raised from a flat $100 per year to a sliding scale, based on admission charged, which would cost local theatres $750 yearly.

Refund Ordered on Screen Excise Tax

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12.—Deciding a test case that is likely to be followed by suits filed by other studios, Federal Judge Leon Yankwich has ordered the Government to refund $7,550 in excise taxes on process screens collected from Warner Brothers in the past five years.

The judge ruled that the tax, which was technically levied on cameras and other photographic equipment, cannot be collected on screens, which, he said, are properly classified as studio equipment in common with sets and "props."

Eagle-Lion Sues for Use of Word 'Eagle'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Eagle-Lion Films, Inc., has filed suit in Superior Court asking an injunction against American Eagle Films to bar further use of the word "Eagle" in its company name. The complaint states that Eagle-Lion's world-wide prestige is damaged by the similarity in names, setting forth it has spent $150,000 establishing its identity since its inception last May 5th. American Eagle Films was formed last October by Sam Howard and associates for independent production.

Authors Seek Status With United Nations

A bid for authors to be given coequal status with press, radio and films in the information work of the United Nations will be registered with the UN department of public information by P.E.N., the international association of writers, editors and publishers through its vice-president, Manuel Komroff, at a department of information conference being held this week at Lake Success.

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ATA's Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

operate their theatres. "The court attempts to legalize an otherwise illegal plan for concerted action to regulate the market for films. At the same time, the court denies the exhibitors, in the market so regulated by it, their right to intervene and object to the combination set up by the court to control their methods of buying product," Arnold declared.

The association will contend that if the distributor defendants should get together and decide upon a competitive bidding plan, "between themselves," the plan would obviously be in violation of the anti-trust act. Therefore, how can a court prescribe this relief as a protection for the independent? ATA will ask.

Petition's Four Points

In its petition, ATA will outline four ways in which it claims the exhibitor may be bound by the final litigation. They are: The decree compels the buyers to submit to market regulations imposed by the concerted action of sellers who control the supply of product; it attempts to enforce compliance by taking away from exhibitors their present right to enjoin such concerted action; if the decree is held valid, it takes away from the exhibitor the right to recover damages under the anti-trust laws after showing cause that the operation of the plan has caused them injury, and it authorizes and compels the distributors to break off established relationships with independents.

Arnold stated that to deprive the exhibitor of the right to collect damages when hardship is proven is a "grave injustice."

"Films are different from other types of goods and services. You cannot place them on the auction block and have an equitable result," Arnold said.

To Tell of Difficulty

Pointing out that it will be "impossible" to regulate the competitive bidding plan, the ATA plans to tell the Supreme Court that the New York District Court would have difficulty policing thousands of transactions throughout the U. S. "The idea that the various Federal courts in all districts could apply the decree as a master code is equally impractical," Arnold concluded.

The ATA will contend that exhibitors are not adequately represented in the case, which involved their interests. The Supreme Court will be urged to let the independent exhibitor, through ATA, express his viewpoint when the case is heard on final argument.

ATA and CSA Attorneys to Meet on Unified Appeal

Col. Robert T. Barton of Richmond, Va., and George B. Brooks of New York, counsel for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, expect to meet in Washington in the near future with Thurman Arnold, American Theatres Association counsel, to unify plans for a U. S. Supreme Court appeal from the New York Federal District Court's denial of CSA and ATA petitions to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit, Barton reports here. The CSA's decision to appeal was reached at a meeting in St. Augustine, Fla., on Monday.

Cops in Film Houses, Now Want Firemen

Springfield, Mass., Feb. 12.—The City Council has a proposed ordinance calling for the presence of a fireman at all motion picture theatres during all showings, with theatres paying the expense. Currently, policemen must also be on duty, with theatres standing the cost.

WB Zone Managers Meet Here Today

Harry M. Kalmine, general manager of Warner Bros. Theatres, will preside at a meeting of zone managers today at the home office.

Among those attending will be James E. Coston, Chicago; Nat Wolf, Cleveland; I. J. Hoffman, New Haven; Frank Damis, Newark; C. J. Latta, Albany; Ted Schlanger, Philadelphia; M. A. Silver, Pittsburgh; John J. Payette, Washington.

Home office executives at the session will include Clayton E. Bond, Frank E. Cahill, Jr., Nat Fellman, Harry Goldberg, Louis J. Kaufman, Herman R. Maier, Walter F. Marshall, W. Stewart McDonald, Frank N. Phelps, Harry Rosenquest, Leonard S. Schlesinger, Dan Triester, Jack L. Warner, Jr., Rudolph Weiss.

Regulations to End German Film Cartels

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Anti-cartel regulations being imposed in Germany will prevent efforts made in that country before the war to control camera and film developments, the U. S. Commerce Department reports.

The most recent alleged cartel agreement was to prevent the use of the AGFA German color film process, now in the hands of the Alien Property Custodian here. Also, advancements in the production of high cost projection equipment in Germany were held from the world market.

Video Hearing

(*Continued from page* 1)

Selig Hecht, 1941 winner of the Frederic Ives Medal for work in optics, described as the "sheerest irrevelance" testimony given Monday by Paul Raibourn which purported to show that CBS color television would result in confused perception when viewed in the home.

Raibourn declared that a part of the eye sees only black and white, while the cones are used for color vision with the result that they conflict in viewing color television pictures. Hecht yesterday fired back with the observation that when the brightness of moonlight is exceeded color confusion cannot be the result.

Following Hecht's testimony, Raibourn questioned the value of statements about television reception by "anyone who has viewed color television during a one-day private demonstration in a CBS laboratory and three hours of a three-day demonstration conducted for the benefit of the FCC and those in the television industry." He indicated that persons who have video receivers in their own homes would best be qualified to pass judgment.

Red Cross Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

the seven-minute appeal film, "Call to Action," produced by March of Time, during the run of their programs current on Feb. 25. Audience collections will not be requested but booths or donation boxes at theatres may be maintained during the drive by exhibitors who elect to do so.

The Red Cross, it was stated, regards the publicity accorded its past drives on screens of the nation's theatres as the most valuable contribution it could receive and wishes to have that cooperation continued as its primary method of direct solicitation of the public.

Louis C. Boochever, national director of public relations for the Red Cross, estimated the publicity value of the nation's screen time to the Red Cross at $50,000,000. He said that 3,000 prints of the special appeal subject will be made available to theatres for use beginning Feb. 25. All national and most regional exhibitor organizations have agreed to cooperate, Boochever reported. The industry's national distribution committee for 1947, of which Tom J. Connors of 20th Century-Fox is chairman, will supervise distribution of the subject and cooperation will be afforded regionally by 31 exhibitor chairmen.

Other speakers at yesterday's luncheon who urged industry assistance for the drive were Arthur Mayer, Broadway theatre operator who has handled numerous foreign missions for the Red Cross, and Robert Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association. Joe Weil, identified with the industry for many years, is handling publicity for the drive.

WB Profit

(*Continued from page* 1)

cents a share, for the similar period ending Dec. 1, 1945.

Film rentals, theatre admissions and sales, after eliminating intercompany transactions for the period, amounted to $42,636,000, compared with $37,896,000 for the corresponding three months of 1945.

Federal income taxes in the 1946 period amounted to $4,400,000, while the previous year's taxes for the quarter were $4,300,000.

Para. to Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

president, and Austin Keough, vice-president and general counsel, are in Florida at present and will attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, Paramount has given attention to competitive bidding as dictated by the New York decision with experiments in that type of licensing films already conducted in a few situations. Additional tests are now under consideration.

As reported previously, Paramount and all other companies under the New York decree decision are planning appeal action. In the case of Columbia, notice of appeal already has been filed.

Baltimore Dinner

BALTIMORE, Feb. 12.—A testimonial dinner-dance honoring ex-chief barker William K. Saxton, will be given by the Variety Club, Baltimore Ten No. 19, on Friday.

Fight Intervention On Ground of Delay

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Justice Department will tell the U. S. Supreme Court that the American Theatres Association should not be permitted to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit because if one exhibitor organization is permitted to do so, others would have the same right and the door would be opened for "unnecessary" delay.

In addition, the Department will co[illegible]d that the ATA is not a "true re[illegible]ntative" of the average independent exhibitor, it was stated.

Robert L. Wright, Government counsel, has been fighting intervention attempts since the ATA first announced its intention to seek a voice in the suit. Wright believes that *amicus curiae* briefs are sufficient liaison between the exhibitor and the court.

As for the ATA belief that the Government "does not speak for the exhibitor," Wright contends that the Justice Department has done everything possible to protect the independent despite the ramification of having the revolutionary competitive bidding plan suddenly injected as an issue between the exhibitor and the Government. Wright's recent statement to the New York Federal District Court that the workability of the bidding plan is questionable is pointed to by the department as an example of its interest in the subject.

Upstate Auto Accident

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Holbrook Bissell and Charles Charles, of Advertisers Distributing Company, sellers of screen advertising, are reported in a serious condition in a Cooperstown, N. Y., hospital, following a highway accident in which their car collided with another while driving to Buffalo. Bissell is a former Columbia manager in Albany, and Charles is a former Ross Federal Service manager.

Peggy O'Neill Dead

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12. — Peggy O'Neill, producer of stage shows for the RKO Golden Gate Theatre and widow of Arch M. Bowles, former Fox West Coast division manager, died here last Friday following a prolonged illness.

Mrs. Alexander Sabo, 51

ELIZABETH, N. J., Feb. 12.—Mrs. Pauline Kish Sabo, 51, wife of Alexander J. Sabo, owner of the Woodbridge Theatre, Woodbridge, N. J., died on Monday at Memorial Hospital, Rahway, after a brief illness. A son and a daughter also survive.

John Pfeifer, 87

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 12. — John Pfeifer, 87-year-old founder and president of the Pfeifer Show Print Co., with many friends in show business, is dead following a five-week illness.

REEVES
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Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

'Flu' Keeps Pickford From Edison Dinner

Mary Pickford, who came to New York from the Coast to represent the industry as a speaker at the Thomas A. Edison Centennial dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Tuesday night, and to attend a meeting of the United Artists board of directors, was unable to attend either because of an attack of influenza which confined her to her suite at the Plaza Hotel. She sent a message to the dinner, eulogizing Edison for his inventions on which motion pictures are based.

20th Century-Fox was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mersay and Mr. and Mrs. S. Barash.

Glendon Allvine, executive secretary of the Eastern Public Information Committee, and Joel Swensen of Warners represented the industry at the Edison Pioneers luncheon at the Hotel Astor on Tuesday.

Northwest Attacks 'Horror' Pictures

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—Starting on a neighborhood-to-neighborhood basis, Minneapolis Central Council of Parents and Teachers association has launched a drive against crime and horror pictures, comics and radio crime programs. The campaign was placed high on the council's agenda as "a major and immediate project," following report of an investigation of children's entertainment by a special committee under Hugh E. Flynn.

Flynn said it is not planned to coerce or boycott theatres which show horror films or drug stores which sell objectionable comics.

Czech Short Screening

"Czechoslovakia Comes Back", two-reeler, has been compiled by American Relief for Czechoslovakia, Inc., of which Brackett Lewis is executive director. The footage was taken from Czechoslovakian government and U. S. Army Signal Corps documentaries, and will be trade-screened Thursday afternoon at the Museum of Modern Art, here.

Ask Single Collection

The immediate establishment of a labor-management committee to work out plans for a once-a-year collection and distribution of funds for charity and relief organizations has been requested by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 109, United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, in a letter sent to the heads of motion picture companies here.

Universal Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

Cooke said the Universal appeal will attack the decree in a "comprehensive" fashion and, in general, will follow the lines of the motion he filed with the court here on Jan. 10, seeking modification of the decree. Especially, Universal will appeal from the ban on franchise deals, contending that such agreements between the company and independent exhibitors help assure the theatres a flow of product and give the distributor an assured outlet without which the establishment of show-case houses would be necessary.

Universal also is on record in opposition to competitive bidding and is expected to attack the decree as an impingement upon its copyrights.

VA Film Division In Meeting Here

Distribution difficulties and improvement of its 35mm. facilities were taken up by the film division of the Veterans Administration at a meeting held at the Hotel Pennsylvania here Tuesday. Other sessions were held yesterday and today, with David Palfreyman, director of theatre service and trade relations for the Motion Picture Association, slated to attend. Eric A. Johnston, MPA president, was forced to decline an invitation due to the pressure of other work.

John Cassidy, chief of the VA motion picture division, presided over yesterday's conference. Gus Mason, executive assistant director of special services, and William J. Jones, Jr., previewing and booking director, sat in along with heads of the 13 VA regional film offices around the country.

The Administration obtains product at close to cost from the majority of film companies under one-year contracts signed with each last July.

Vog Head to Seek New Film Abroad

B. L. Garner, head of Vog Films, distributors of foreign-language films in America, will leave late this month for a three-month trip to France to examine available product and attend to two theatres in Paris which he owns. Garner said that he hopes to acquire about 20 films for distribution here.

Noel Meadow, his associate, will take charge of Vog affairs here during Garner's absence.

Children's Films Get Wide Detroit Support

DETROIT, Feb. 12.—Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council members report that cooperation of theatres in showing the 28 specially selected films from the MPA's Children's Film Library is excellent, and that the well-attended showings are receiving top parental support, as well as publicity through schools.

New Variety Tent

(*Continued from page* 1)

chief barker, has met with the charter membership group in New Haven on several occasions. Bill McCraw, national executive director, has also visited the proposed tent. Clubrooms have been arranged for in the Taft Hotel, close to Film Row.

Names of the original crew members follow: chief barker, Barney Pitkin, RKO Radio; chairman, Carl Goe, manager, Warner Brothers; first assistant chief barker, Jacob B. Fishman, Fishman Theatres; second assistant, Henry Germaine, Paramount; dough guy, George Wilkinson, Wilkinson Theatre; property master, Arthur Greenfield, Universal; canvasmen, Herman Levy, MPTOA; Max Alderman, Allied Exhibitors; John V. Pavone, Monogram; Harry F. Shaw, Loew's Poli; Lou Brown, Loew's Poli.

As soon as its charter has been granted, the new tent will set a date for its official induction into the national organization through an inauguration banquet and dedication of the club rooms.

Century Using Radio For 'Brotherhood'

With theatre circuits over the country using their own local radio shows to broadcast the message of American Brotherhood during the drive period, Feb. 16-23, New York's Century Circuit will open its drive on Sunday by devoting a portion of its program "Show Business" heard over station WNEW, to securing memberships in the Brotherhood campaign.

Fred J. Schwartz, Century's vice-president, will discuss the role motion pictures have played in combating bigotry throughout the world.

Rosener Buys Into Two More Houses

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—Herbert Rosener, owner of the Clay and Larkin theatres in San Francisco and four houses in Los Angeles, has purchased the interests of Oliver Grover and Max de Hes in the Stage Door and Nob Hill theatres.

In conjunction with Irving Ackerman, who retains his interests in the two latter theatres, Rosener will play both foreign and domestic films in the Nob Hill and Stage Door.

May Alter 'Blue' Law

ATLANTA, Feb. 12.—A bill to permit Sunday pictures, except between the hours of eight A.M. and two P.M. and six P.M. and nine, was introduced in the House of Representatives by the Floyd and Spalding County delegations.

Existing laws prohibit Sunday films in most of Georgia. Permanent injunctions against Sunday pictures are in effect in Rome and Hogansville. Theatres operate on Sunday in Atlanta.

Powers Incorporates

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Pat Powers Corp. has been incorporated to conduct a motion picture business in New York. Incorporators are: Milton E. Friedland, Julia Carasuolo, and A. Bertrand Channon, all of New York City.

Jurow Joins Saphier

Martin Jurow has joined the James L. Saphier Agency as partner in charge of motion picture and theatrical activities. He was formerly with Music Corp. of America, Warner Brothers, Hal Wallis and Enterprise.

E. Levy Opens Rink

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—"Skateland at the Beach" skating rink costing $250,000, has opened here with Ellis Levy, head of the Telenews Theatre, as president.

OUTSTANDING EXPLOITATION FILMS
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1600 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS "FILMRIGHTS"

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Jan. 18	(Jan. Releases) THE JOLSON STORY (Color) M—128 mins. (Rev. 9/16/46)	(Jan. Releases) 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY GALLANT BESS THE MIGHTY McGURK LADY IN THE LAKE	RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins.		WILD COUNTRY Eddie Dean O—59 mins.		(Disney Special) SONG OF THE SOUTH (Color) 95 mins. (Rev. 10/24/46)	(Jan. Releases) RAZOR'S EDGE THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM 13 RUE MADELEINE STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE LES MISERABLES		(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY Sonny Tufts Ann Blyth D—87 mins. (Rev. 12/5/46) I'LL BE YOURS Deanna Durbin Tom Drake William Bendix Adolphe Menjou M—93 mins. (Rev. 1/20/47) THE WICKED LADY Margaret Lockwood James Mason Patricia Roc D—98 mins. (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.		VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser M—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Eagle-Lion) IT'S A JOKE, SON Kenny Delmar Una Merkel C—64 mins. (Rev. 1/21/47)	TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67	(Liberty Special) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE James Stewart Donna Reed D—130 mins. (781) (Rev. 12/19/46)				HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette				(Eagle-Lion) BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47) THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild D—72 mins.	(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)		
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)			SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)		(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D—100 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.			ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich D	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)			
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins. THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)	HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (Reissue) (Rev. 10/29/41)	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey Janet Blair		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1		(March Releases) (Special) THE YEARLING (Color) Gregory Peck Jane Wyman D—134 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)	THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman		VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)				
Mar. 8			HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas	EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders	(March Releases) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins.
Mar. 15		BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker	TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown		RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE Eddie Dean	THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne			(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 22			SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY Kit Carson LAST OF THE MOHICANS				(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett		
Mar. 29			VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames				(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd		

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 51. NO. 31 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1947 TEN CENTS

U.S. Considers Arbitration by Government

Justice Department May Ask for Legislation

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Justice Department may propose to the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee that a Government arbitration unit be established by legislation to handle the settlement and enforcement of disputes and practices resulting from final court litigation in the industry anti-trust suit, it is reported here.

There is definite opposition within the Government to any system of "voluntary" arbitration, such as the one to be suggested at the industry exhibitor forum in New York, March 10-11.

Questions have arisen regarding the legality of a court establishing a system of arbitration. Robert L. Wright, Government counsel, expressed the belief that a court may not establish a compulsory arbitration system to carry

(*Continued on page 7*)

U. S. Will Appeal Decision Next Week

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Government will file its appeal from the New York Court's final judgment in the industry anti-trust suit next week, Robert I. Wright, counsel for the Justice Department, said today.

Wright stated that the Government

(*Continued on page 7*)

Rank to Reorganize Gaumont-British Co.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Gaumont-British Picture Co., Ltd., containing a number of unwieldy equities, soon will undergo a large scale reorganization by J. Arthur Rank. They will be similar to the changes recently made in the Odeon Theatres set-up, it is understood.

First subsidiary to be dealt with will be Associated Provincial Picture Houses, which is capitalized at 2,800,000 shares of common stock and 400,000 shares of seven and one-half per cent preferred. Rank is expected to offer two shares of Gaumont-British common for each Associated Provincial share in that class.

Para. Survey Of Product at Florida Meet

A general canvass of current product and theatre problems will be undertaken at the meeting of Paramount home office officials with theatre partners and associates, which will open at the Ponce de Leon Hotel, St. Augustine, Fla., Monday and continue throughout the week.

Barney Balaban, Paramount president, who has returned to Florida following a trip from there to the Coast, will be present at the sessions, as will Austin C. Keough, vice-president and general counsel, who has been recuperating from an illness at Belle Glade, Fla. Attorneys Louis Phillips and Walter Gross will attend from New York, assisting in a general discussion of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit and the problems to be confronted in operating under it.

While the talks are expected to em-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Cites RKO Deal in Atlas Profit Report

The Atlas Corporation's sales of stock of Radio-Keith-Orpheum were largely responsible for the company's profits of $20,599,242 on security sales for 1946, according to Floyd B. Odlum, president, who announced yesterday that the common stock of the investment corporation has been placed on a quarterly basis rather than on the semi-annual basis heretofore in force.

Concurrently with the issuance of

(*Continued on page 6*)

Astor Selected for Meeting on Forum

The March 10-11 meeting of independent exhibitors called by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, to discuss formation of a motion picture forum and voluntary arbitration will be held at the Hotel Astor here.

Representatives of the American Theatres Association and the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York already have accepted invitations to attend, and S. H. Fabian, ATA president, is understood to have approached Abram Myers, national Allied's board chairman and general counsel, in an endeavor to have that organization represented also. Myers is on record as believing that discussion of the forum plan is premature at this time.

'Brotherhood' Drive Starts on Sunday

The nation's motion picture theatres will begin what a committee describes as "the greatest industry-sponsored drive in history" over the weekend, when every newsreel print in the country will present the special short featurette launching "American Brotherhood Week," starting Sunday under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Bringing the message of "Brotherhood" to theatre-goers are such stars as June Allyson, Joan Bennett, Lionel Barrymore, Gene Kelly, Gregory Peck and Dick Powell, who were directed in the David O. Selznick short subject by William Dieterle.

Increases Are Out in UK Under Dollar Export Ban

LONDON, Feb. 13.—American distributors, beset with difficulties in obtaining increased admission prices for high-cost films in their own country because of a Federal Court ruling, are facing a similar problem in England because of the government's ban against boosting the number of dollars exported.

The issue, brought up quietly when William Erbb, British general sales manager for the Selznick Releasing Organization, made inquiry regarding advanced terms for "Duel in the Sun," was brought into the open yesterday at a meeting of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, where W. R. Fuller, CEA general secretary, read cables exchanged between himself and Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, relevant to "Duel" bookings.

Fuller declared that increased prices, always unpopular with Brit-

(*Continued on page 6*)

US Court Sets Aside Momand Case Damages

Reverses Boston Jury's Award of $966,000

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—Reversing the Jan. 22 jury decision which awarded $966,000 to A. B. Momand, former Oklahoma exhibitor, in his 15-year-old restraint-of-trade suit against eight distributors, Judge Charles Wyzanski today entered a judgment in favor of the defendants in Federal District Court here.

Following five years of litigation twists in Oklahoma, the case was brought to Boston in 1937 after Momand established residence here. During the course of the trial, the plaintiff contended he was forced to relinquish his theatre because of inability to obtain product. His houses were located in Shawnee, Waywoka, Holdensville, Clinton, Alva and Pawhuska, all in Oklahoma.

Defendants were Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Warners, Loew's, RKO Radio, Columbia, United Artists and

(*Continued on page 7*)

'U' Sales Meeting Opens Here Today

Universal-International will open its third and final regional sales meeting at the Hotel Astor here this morning with sales representatives from the Eastern district and home office executives attending.

Highlighting the agenda will be a

(*Continued on page 7*)

C B S Television Is Again Under Attack

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Columbia Broadcasting System's color television again was attacked here today as the Federal Communications Commission concluded its hearing on the CBS petition to put its method in operation on a commercial basis.

Color television as proposed by

(*Continued on page 7*)

Reviewed Today

"The Arnelo Affair," "That Way with Women," page 4; "Calendar Girl," page 6; and "Over the Sante Fe Trail," "A Yank in Rome," page 7.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

THE Prague film industry stands high in commendation from citations heaped upon it by the Czechoslovakian government for its untiring efforts in behalf of these trying days of postwar reconstruction. Workers of Prague theatres have turned in 1,100 tiring work-hours to the Republic—gardening in Prague parks!

▽

Warner Brothers' Toronto office formally announces to the press of the world its great satisfaction over the fact that the way has been made clear for the return to the screen of the infanticipating Warner star, Bette Davis.

Seems Joe (Moose Man) LaFlamme, famous Canadian trainer of wild animals, has shipped a papoose board, such as a squaw uses to carry her child, to Betty, and with it, says Warners, Joe sent a note indicating that he thought the gift would allow her to resume her acting career at an earlier date than would normally be possible, "without necessitating the separation of mother and child."

To his note Joe appended a cheery little footnote disclosing that the board had carried the 23 children of the present Chief of the Ojibway Indian Nation.

▽

Hollywood bigwigs—talent and executives—scrambled over Ciro's Hollywood dance floor the other night to pick up the priceless jewels accidentally spilled by the gold-embroidered and satin-headgeared Crown Prince of Arabia, who was departing with his large entourage after enjoying the compliments of the hosting management.

But the sophisticates of the film colony learned later, with great disappointment, that the priceless diamonds, emeralds and rubies left by the Prince were but pieces of glass, dropped by the richly costumed gagster, Hollywood actor Jim Moran.

▽

Sixteen-year-old RKO Radio actress Carlotta Jelm of Beverly Hills, Cal., currently appearing in "The Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer," with Cary Grant, owns a racing stable which has won her over a quarter of a million dollars. The giddy-ap girl.

▽

Twentieth Century-Fox's Roger Ferri concludes that contentment is the knack of not wanting the things we know we can't have.

▽

Absolutely No Comment Department: Traubee Time-Saver Products, Brooklyn, N. Y., contemplates lining up film companies and radio stations for a Perfect Housewife Contest.

▽

Much has been appearing in public prints in recent days concerning Benjamin Fielding's New York City License Department and motion picture theatre licenses. Fielding also licenses pool parlors, pawnshops, sightseeing "hawkers," massage operators, etc., etc.

Personal Mention

MURRAY SILVERSTONE, president of 20th Century-Fox International, and BEN GOETZ, M-G-M executive, are aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* en route to New York from England.

•

RAYMOND POWERS, Warners' Albany, N. Y., exchange office manager and head booker, is convalescing at his home from injuries sustained in an automobile accident while riding with ALFRED MARCHETTI, Universal's head booker, who escaped injury.

•

LITA WARNER, daughter of the late SAM WARNER and adopted daughter of MR. and MRS. HARRY M. WARNER, will be married next Tuesday to DR. NATHAN HIATT at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills.

•

EDMUND C. GRAINGER, Shea Theatres executive, and MRS. GRAINGER, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in the Pocono Mountains where they are on vacation from New York.

•

NORMAN D. OLSEN, export manager for the DeVry Corp., Chicago, will leave there Feb. 22, for a tour of the West Indies and South America.

•

BEN KALMERSON, vice-president and general sales manager of Warner Bros., has returned to New York from a Southern tour.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Warners Southern division sales manager, is due back in New York on Monday from Oklahoma City.

NED DEPINET and MRS. DEPINET will leave New York today for the Coast.

•

DAPHNE DOLORES MERCEDES SKOURAS, daughter of MR. and MRS. SPYROS P. SKOURAS, will be married tomorrow to OREN ROOT, JR., in the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer here.

•

WILLIAM J. FADIMAN has arrived in Hollywood from New York to assume his new duties as executive assistant to DORE SCHARY, RKO Radio's executive vice-president in charge of production.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, Eastern studio representative of RKO Radio, addressed the Baltimore Sales Executives Club recently on "Sales Planning for Motion Pictures."

•

A. L. PRATCHETT, Latin American division manager for Paramount International, will leave New York tomorrow for a two-month tour of his territory.

•

BUDD ROGERS, Eastern representative for CHARLES R. ROGERS, will leave here for Hollywood over the weekend. He will remain about three weeks.

•

DON FOSTER has been appointed booker for Paramount in Salt Lake City, replacing RUSS SWANSON who has joined Producers Releasing there.

•

MRS. JOHN SCANLON, wife of the Warner Theatre, Torrington, Conn., manager, has been a patient at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford.

Talent Guilds May Seek Reissue Pay

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—A plan for modifying talent contracts to compel producers to grant special remuneration to writers, actors and directors for their services in connection with reissued pictures will be discussed Monday night by committees representing the Screen Writers' Guild, the Screen Actors' Guild and the Screen Directors' Guild. The committees, which are instructed to canvass possibilities as a preliminary step, are to report back to their respective guild boards.

As advanced by the SWG, which invited other guilds to join in the movement, the proposal contemplates working out a formula acceptable to producers under which talent would receive pay, on a diminishing scale, throughout their entire careers on all pictures.

Testifies for US Strike Control

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Rep. A. L. Miller (Neb.) today testified before the House education and labor committee in favor of his bill which would prevent interference with interstate or foreign commerce by sympathy or jurisdictional strikes. "There is no justification for letting one union tie up a whole community or industry because of a quarrel with its employer or with some other union," he said.

Johnston to White House on Trade Pact

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, today called on President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall, asking their continued support of the State Department's reciprocal trade program.

Johnston told both the President and Secretary Marshall that international relations must be kept "strictly on a non-partisan basis." He outlined the value of motion pictures abroad in terms of binding together the peoples of all nations, emphasizing the serious barriers now confronting the industry abroad.

Newsmen on Bus Junket

Representatives of the trade press and daily newspapers will occupy the three Allied Artists-acquired double-deck New York Fifth Avenue busses which will leave here for Philadelphia on Sunday on the first leg of a 3,600-mile trip to California in the promotion of the company's "It Happened on Fifth Avenue." The newsmen will return here by train.

'Women' Tradeshow

"That Way with Women," Warner Brothers, will be nationally tradeshown on Monday, March 10. Picture will open a pre-release engagement at the New York Strand on Friday.

Blue Law Appeal

MONTPELIER, Vt., Feb. 13.—A bill permitting Sunday pictures after two P.M., four hours earlier than now allowed, has been filed with the legislature by Rep. Francis W. Billado. The current Sunday amusement law, adopted in 1939 after considerable controversy, permits local option on Sunday films, but restricts them to after six P.M.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
M-G-M's TECHNICOLOR HIT!
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
IN PERSON
JACKIE GLEASON
Extra!
HARRISON & FISCHER

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN · SONNY TUFTS
in "EASY COME, EASY GO"
A Paramount Picture
in Person
THE INK SPOTS
ELLA FITZGERALD
TIP TAP & TOE
STUMP & STUMPY
Extra!
COOTIE WILLIAMS
His Trumpet And His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances
ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

Betty GRABLE - Dick HAYMES
"THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture in Technicolor
PLUS ON STAGE — PETER LORRE
GIL LAMB - Extra! EVELYN KNIGHT
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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"13 RUE MADELEINE"

SMASHES ALL 'HOUSE' RECORDS!

20th's NEW BOXOFFICE SENSATION TOPS ALL THE SKY-HIGH GROSSES OF "THE HOUSE ON 92nd ST." IN NEW YORK LOS ANGELES · CLEVELAND · BOSTON BALTIMORE · PITTSBURGH · DETROIT SAN FRANCISCO · PHILADELPHIA DES MOINES · ST. LOUIS · *EVERYWHERE!*

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"THE RAZOR'S EDGE" · "THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM" In Technicolor · "BOOMERANG!" · "CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" In Technicolor · "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" · "THE HOMESTRETCH" In Technicolor

AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK · FEBRUARY 16-23

Foreign Writers in Award Nominations

Supplementing earlier published announcements of films and performers nominated for 1946 awards, the following nominations, several of them foreign, have been made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

For the best written screenplay: Talbot Jennings and Sally Benson, for "Anna and the King of Siam"; Robert E. Sherwood, "The Best Years of Our Lives"; David Lean, Anthony Havelock-Allan and Ronald Neame, "Brief Encounter" (British); Anthony Veiller, "The Killers," and Sergie Amidei and F. Fellina, "Open City" (Italian).

Best original screenplay: Raymond Chandler, for "The Blue Dahlia"; Jacques Prevert, "Children of Paradise" (French); Ben Hecht, "Notorious"; Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, "Road to Utopia"; Muriel and Sydney Box, "The Seventh Veil" (British).

Best original motion picture story: Vladimir Pozner, for "The Dark Mirror"; Jack Patrick, "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers"; Victor Trivias, "The Stranger"; Charles Brackett, "To Each His Own"; Clemence Dane, "Vacation from Marriage (British).

Best scoring of a musical picture: Robert Emmett Dolan, for "Blue Skies"; Alfred Newman, "Centennial Summer"; Lennie Hayton, "The Harvey Girls"; Morris Stoloff, "The Jolson Story"; Ray Heindorf and Max Steiner, "Night and Day."

Best scoring of a picture: Bernard Herrmann, for "Anna and the King of Siam"; Hugo Friedhofer and Emil Newman, "The Best Years of Our Lives"; William Walton, "Henry V" (British); Franz Waxman, "Humoresque"; Miklos Rozsa, "The Killers."

Best original song: "All Through the Day, from "Centennial Summer," music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, II; "Ole Buttermilk Sky" from "Canyon Passage," music by Hoagy Carmichael, lyrics by Jack Brooks; "On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe," from "The Harvey Girls," music by Harry Warren, lyrics by Johnny Mercer; "This Is Always," from "Three Little Girls in Blue," music by Harry Warren, lyrics by Mack Gordon, and "You Keep Coming Back Like a Song," from "Blue Skies," music and lyrics by Irving Berlin.

Best achievements in film editing: "The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn-RKO Radio; "It's a Wonderful Life," Liberty Films-RKO Radio; "The Jolson Story," Columbia; "The Killers," Mark Hellinger, Productions-Universal; "The Yearling," M-G-M.

Best achievements in special effects: "Blithe Spirit," J. Arthur Rank-Noel Coward-Cineguild-UA (British); "A Stolen Life," Warners.

Best achievements in sound recording: "The Best Years of Our Lives," Goldwyn-RKO Radio; "It's a Wonderful Life," Libert-RKO Radio; "The Jolson Story," Columbia.

Distinctive achievement in short subject documentary production: "Atomic Power," 20th Century-Fox; "Life at the Zoo," Artkino; Paramount News, issue No. 37, Paramount; "Seeds of Destiny," U. S. War Department; "Traffic With the Devil," M-G-M.

Reviews

"The Arnelo Affair"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

CARVED with the verbal economy and emotional momentum of a radio drama, a field in which Arch Oboler, the director-scenario writer of this picture, has achieved a respected mark, "The Arnelo Affair" is a magnetically-paced film. Fundamentally an adult story since the love affair in expression and motivation is one for adult comprehension, this Jerry Bresler production will doubtless find its warmest reception among the female patrons, yet remains strong enough in entertainment and excitement value to satisfy all adult theatre-goers.

Combined with Oboler's deft handling of his own material, based on a story by Jane Burr, the film is endowed with added box-office drawing power by a cast which includes John Hodiak, Frances Gifford, George Murphy, Dean Stockwell, Eve Arden and Warner Anderson. It is clearly Miss Gifford's picture all the way, with Hodiak and Murphy elbowed into the shadows as she registers the inner struggle that besets her when she becomes implicated in a murder which threatens to prove scandalous to her lawyer-husband's career and endanger her son's upbringing.

Craving romance and excitement which her husband, played by Murphy, has little time to lavish upon her because he is too wrapped up in his work, Miss Gifford becomes fascinated by one of her husband's clients, John Hodiak, a tough, unpolished night-club owner who has moved over from "the other side of the tracks." A brief love affair, with intimations of an inevitable seduction, dies a-borning when one of his former mistresses shows up. Miss Gifford leans the following morning that her predecessor has been murdered, and Hodiak, to bind Miss Gifford to him, has collected ambiguous scraps of circumstantial evidence which could be interpreted to indicate her complicity.

On a hint from a dour, cryptically-spoken detective, played by Warner Anderson, Murphy undertakes some sleuthing to hang or vindicate his wife, and is told by Hodiak that she is guilty. But Anderson, doubting her guilt, massages the thin edge of Hodiak's conscience until Hodiak, in a heroic gesture, chooses death at the hands of the police to the alternative of dragging her name through the public mud. At the same time, Murphy learns through a friend, Eve Arden, that his wife could not have been responsible for the slaying. He arrives home in time for a reconciliation, after her unsuccessful attempt at suicide.

Running time, 86 minutes. Adult classification. Release date not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

"That Way with Women"

(Warner Brothers)

Hollywood, Feb. 13

APART from whatever marquee strength may be exerted in a given situation by the names of Dane Clark, Sydney Greenstreet and Martha Vickers, this production, by Charles Hoffman, of a story by Earl Derr Biggers appears to have been fashioned for use on days when the customers attend habitually. It is a comedy, the familiar one in which the grumpy old millionaire makes a monkey out of his doctor by throwing away his pills and getting well, and it has a slight lacing of racketeering subplot to bulk it up, but the handling in whole is without sparkle.

Greenstreet plays a retired automobile manufacturer whose doctor and family tell him he is too ill to do any of the things he likes to do. When Clark, as a young man allergic to people with money but ambitious to make some for himself, buys a half interest in a gas station, Greenstreet, under an assumed name, buys the other half interest, concealing this fact from his family. Much confusion ensues, mostly for purposes of humor, before all of the facts come out in the open and everybody is made happy. The cast includes Alan Hale, Craig Stevens, Barbara Brown, Don McGuire, John Ridgely, Dick Erdman, Herbert Anderson, Howard Freeman, Ian Wolfe and others.

Direction is by Frederick de Cordova and Leo Townsend wrote the screenplay.

Running time, 85 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Bonafield Named Pathe Editor

Harold Bonafield has been named managing editor of RKO Pathe News by Walter Ament, general manager. Bonafield has been associated with the newsreel since 1931 and has been chief film editor for the past several years. In his new position he will coordinate all make-up operations under Alfred Butterfield, editor-in-chief.

3 New Coast Drive-ins

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—Starlite Theatres Corp. has filed articles of incorporation in Superior Court, to construct three drive-in theatres in the Peninsula area. Incorporators are W. Thornton, Geraldine and James B. Howell, Jr. of Atherton and M. Broyer, San Francisco.

Goldfarb Promoted

Robert Goldfarb, United Artists personnel and office manager, has been appointed to the sales department in an executive capacity, J. J. Unger, general sales manager, announced on Tuesday. Goldfarb's successor was not made known immediately.

2 Para. Men Move Up

MEMPHIS, Feb. 13.—Robert Kilgore, former Paramount head booker here, has been named a salesman, replacing Dick Setton, who has resigned. Fred Curd, former booker, succeeds Kilgore as head booker.

Sherman to U-I

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—George Sherman, former Columbia producer-director, has joined Universal-International as a director.

42% Revenue Rise Boosts Mono. Net

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Citing a 42 per cent increase in revenue in both foreign and domestic fields for the 26 weeks ending last Dec. 28 over the corresponding 1945 period, Steve Broidy, president, reports that consolidated net profits of Monogram Pictures and its subsidiaries was $344,973, before provision for federal income tax, compared with $377,192 in the last half of 1945. Net profits, after federal taxes, amounted to $216,999 in the 1946 period, against $183,692 for the 1945 period.

Broidy also announced that from the date of the last annual report, issued June 29, 1946, management options for a total of 31,900 shares of stock have been exercised by their holders, leaving a remainder of 22,200 shares reserved for the exercise of options still outstanding.

Stressing Monogram's current schedule of high-budget productions by Allied Artists, new subsidiary which will distribute through Monogram pictures costing about $1,000,000 each, Broidy pointed out that Allied's first release is "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," and other product slated for Allied includes "Tragic Symphony," "The Gangster," "Smart Woman," and "Gun Crazy." The report also drew attention to several high-budget films which will be released under the Monogram trade-mark, including "Black Gold," "High Conquest," "The Guilty" and "Violence."

Assure Veterans of Film Cooperation

A three-day meeting of the film division of the Veterans Administration concluded at the Hotel Pennsylvania here yesterday with C. J. Scollard, Paramount executive, and Theodore Smith, assistant to Francis Harmon, vice-president of the Motion Picture Association, giving assurance of industry cooperation in the VA motion picture program.

Representatives of the 13 VA film offices around the country attended the sessions, the purpose of which was to match notes on distributing prints from one hospital to the other and the elimination of "red tape" in film affairs within the Administration. Facilities for 16mm. operation also were taken up.

Shays Named to UA Personnel Post

Philip R. Shays has been appointed personnel and office manager of United Artists' home office, effective immediately. He will assume duties previously handled by Robert Goldfarb, who has transferred to the sales department.

Shays recently served as director of labor relations at the Henry Kaiser plant in Bristol, Pa.

McGregor Is Transferred

CLEVELAND, Feb. 13.—RKO exploiteer, Don McGregor will come to Cleveland from Portland, Ore., replacing Peter Batory who replaces McGregor in Portland.

To BOB O'DONNELL

General Manager,
Interstate Circuit.

Dear Bob,

This is probably the first time in history that a producer-distributor has ever told an exhibitor that he feels the latter has given him a wonderful deal on a picture. But I'd be less than honest, Bob, if I didn't tell you that the contract you signed for the Interstate Circuit to play Roy Del Ruth's "IT HAPPENED ON FIFTH AVENUE" is one of the happiest deals I've ever been connected with. You couldn't have given us better terms if we were United Artists, MGM, Warners or any of the majors.

There's an extra something to this deal, however, that is especially important to all of us at Allied Artists — and that's your glowing praise of the picture as being the kind of entertainment you're proud to show in Interstate Theatres. I want you to know that the encouragement given to independents by showmen like yourself has been an important factor in making possible so big an undertaking as "IT HAPPENED ON FIFTH AVENUE."

Allied Artists is proud that Interstate will be among the first to play its initial presentation, and we hope you'll find our succeeding pictures equally fine.

Best regards to our friends in the Lone Star State.

Cordially,

Steve Broidy
President,
Allied Artists Productions, Inc.

Paramount Appeal Is Off the Press

Copies of Paramount's appeal from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, scheduled to be filed in New York Federal District Court probably before March 1, were received from the printer yesterday by counsel for the company and now are being checked at the home office.

As of yesterday, M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Warners and RKO were reported to be still undecided on whether they will file appeals. Columbia's is on file and is scheduled to be followed by appeals from United Artists, Universal and the Department of Justice, as well as Paramount.

Paramount Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

phasize competitive-bidding procedures, it appears that theatre divorcement will be only a secondary topic, inasmuch as Paramount believes nothing definite can be decided about compliance with the New York Federal District Court's partial-divestiture order until the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled on the company's appeal.

Leonard H. Goldenson, president of Paramount Theatre Service Corp., will be among the home office executives leaving here on Sunday for the meeting and is expected to lead the discussion of the general trend of product coming from the studios, with special emphasis on costs.

Review

"Calendar Girl"

(*Republic*)

A THEATRICAL boarding house in Greenwich Village, as it was in 1900, is the scene of much merriment and melody, a little romance and, all together, a good and carefree time for an audience. "Calendar Girl" really has a wealth of infectious gaiety.

Jane Frazee, Gail Patrick, Kenny Baker, William Marshall, Irene Rich, Victor McLaglen, James Ellison and Franklin Pangborn are the principals. The picture has promotional possibilities galore, particularly in a contest for a local "Calendar Girl." Republic is working on this on a nationwide basis.

Additionally, the musical score by Jimmy McHugh and Harold Adamson may be relied upon to assist in the selling, for at least a couple of the tunes seem destined for the bigtime. The songs are "Calendar Girl," "New York Is a Nice Place to Visit," "I'm Telling You Now," "Let's Have Some Pretzels and Beer," "A Bluebird Is Singing to Me" and "A Lovely Night to Go Dancing."

Allan Dwan's direction smoothly interworks the abundance of musical material with bits of comedy and plot. The screenplay, by Mary Loos, Richard Sale and Lee Loeb, from an original by Loeb, brings Marshall and Ellison from Boston to a room at Miss Rich's refuge for struggling artists, including poet Baker and a host of other characters. Miss Frazee, daughter of fireman McLaglen, lives next door. The title stems from a painting of Miss Frazee done by Ellison which wins a calendar contest.

Baker, who is terrific, and Marshall do most of the vocals. After much hullabaloo about Miss Frazee's romantic preference, Marshall's compositions and McLaglen's rivalry with another fire company, the picture comes to a tuneful close. Dwan also was associate producer.

Running time, 88 minutes. General audience classification. Release, Feb. 1.

GENE ARNEEL

Cites RKO Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

Atlas' annual report, dated Dec. 31, 1946, Odlum announced also that the first quarterly dividend of 40 cents a share on outstanding common stock had been declared for payment on March 20 to shareholders of record as of Feb. 28. He told stockholders that the indicated asset value of the company's common stock as of Dec. 31, rose to approximately $36.06 a share from $34.14 a year earlier. At the year-end, he reported, the company had a capital surplus of nearly $22,000,000, as well as unrealized appreciation in securities aggregating approximately $22,000,000.

In reporting on the company's sale in August of 400,000 shares of RKO common, Odlum pointed out that Atlas still remains the largest stockholder of RKO and continues to be actively identified with affairs of that company. "Theatre attendance remained at peak levels and the company again enjoyed a profitable year, with earnings substantially ahead of 1945, the former record year," Odlum said.

The annual report listed the corporation's portfolio ownership of the following film companies' common stock: 2,000 shares of Loew's, listed at $51,250 as of Dec. 31; 93,000 shares of Paramount Pictures, at $3,022,500; 929,020 of Radio-Keith-Orpheum, at $14,399,810; 327,812 of Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp. option warrants, $1,680,036; 10,000 20th Century-Fox, $380,000; 91,700 Walt Disney Productions, $412,650; 5,000 Warner Brothers, $88,125.

WARNER BROS.'

TRADE SHOW

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES ONLY

"THAT WAY WITH WOMEN"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

2:30 P. M.

HOME OFFICE SCREENING ROOM

321 West 44th St.

NEW YORK CITY

20th Retires 4,487 Preferred Shares

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Twentieth Century-Fox has reduced its capital stock 4,487 shares, from 4,693,875 to 4,589,388. This a routine move in line with the company's preferred retirement program. The reduction is based on 1945 earnings.

Mrs. Nelson Burial

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Final rites for Mrs. Donald M. Nelson, wife of the president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, who died yesterday, will be held here tomorrow morning in the Church of the Recessional. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Toler Rites Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Funeral services for actor Sidney Toler, who died yesterday at his home here, will be held here tomorrow at the Pierce Brothers mortuary.

UK Export Ban

(*Continued from page* 1)

ish exhibitors, has become even more so with their patrons in view of the fact that government critics are "continually harping" on the outflow of dollars for U. S. pictures.

Stating that acceptance of the Selznick proposal would be bad politically and embarrassing to the industry in general, Fuller wired Johnston: "As the first episode from America is regarded as a cynical commentary, and Selznick should be advised to lay off." Johnston's reply, he said, noted that Neil Agnew, SRO president, had authorized the price-increase proposal on the understanding that British policy in the matter was unsettled. The CEA council thanked Johnston but emphasized that under no circumstances would a policy of increased prices be tolerated.

Several exhibitors at the meeting expressed annoyance at what they described as Fuller's endeavor to "make capital" at Erbb's expense after the original inquiry was made, especially in view of the fact that Erbb acted immediately after his arrival in this country and while he still was inexperienced in the British field.

A spokesman for Neil Agnew, Selznick Releasing Organization president, said here yesterday that the company's admission price policy for showings of "Duel in the Sun" in England remained to be decided. SRO still would like to have the prices raised, he said, but added that failure to obtain higher scales would not necessarily delay exhibition of the picture in that country.

SRO Seeks House For N.Y. 'Duel' Run

The Selznick Releasing Organization is in the market for a Broadway "show-window" for David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun," Neil Agnew, SRO president, declared yesterday after indicating that the current deal with the Astor Theatre would lapse shortly under the availability stipulation. Explaining that the long-running "The Best Years of Our Lives" would probably keep "Duel" out of the Astor within the terms of the contract, Agnew said that the Selznick Organization has already begun sounding out several house managements on availability.

Two British Studios Will Reopen Today

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Gainsborough and Islington studios, closed because of the nation's fuel crisis, will reopen tomorrow and operate on the power made by three carnival-ground generators.

The newsreels, permitted by the government to use public power only to process films for overseas distribution, resorted to various makeshift arrangements to get out their midweek domestic issues. An oil-burning Diesel generator was bought by Movietone News. Gaumont-British used J. Arthur Rank's Denham studio, which has a private generator. Pathe obtained electricity from generator vans.

Harry Musgrave Dead

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 13. — Harry Musgrave, owner of the Ritz Theatre, Minneapolis, and the Kansas and Columbian, Wamego, Kan., died last Monday.

United Artists Will Appeal Next Week

United Artists will file notice of appeal of the New York Federal Court's equity decision early next week, following authorization of the action by the board of directors at a meeting here Tuesday. The board approved appeal of any or all nine provisions of Section 2 of the New York decree.

Meanwhile, a meeting of independent producers releasing through UA is to be held Tuesday on the Coast with Gradwell Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution, and George Raftery, UA counsel, in attendance to outline changes in distribution contracts necessitated by the ruling.

Distribution pacts now in operation give the producer final right to approve or reject a booking. Consequently, in competitive bidding deals, UA could approve a certain license only to have it turned down by the producer. It follows that the exhibitor, after having been awarded a film on a bidding basis, could take legal action if the picture is not delivered. As one attorney familiar with the situation put it, "the court did not recognize UA's position, thus leaving the company 'behind the eight ball'." Sears left for the Coast last night and Raftery will leave Sunday. Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, also will attend the meeting.

The nine points on which appeal may be taken concern minimum price fixing, agreements on clearance systems, clearance between theatres not in substantial competition, the burden upon the distributor to sustain the legality of any clearance attacked as not legal, franchise deals, formula deals and master agreements, single sales, competitive bidding and arbitrary refusal of some run.

U. S. Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

out a final law decree. The Justice Department itself, however, proposed the arbitration system be set up by the court under the 1940 industry consent decree.

On the other hand, the framework and organization of an arbitration system, with administrative personnel working on the Government payroll, could only be created by a special Act of Congress, it is said.

The Government's future action in the matter, however, may depend upon the outcome of Supreme Court appeals.

Sen. Wallace H. White (Maine), chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, commented that he has previously been in opposition to the enactment of legislation which "regiments" industry. "A setup to handle internal disputes might not be regimentation," he said.

Sen. White pointed out that he has previously opposed the theatre divorcement and anti-block booking bill proposed by Sen. William Langer. "The situation may have changed from that date and, of course, if any legislation which will deal with the picture industry comes before the committee, I will consider it," White commented.

One of the glaring dangers of the new judgment, according to exhibitor spokesman, is the absence of arbitration. On the other hand, the Justice Department does not desire industry arbitration under the American Arbitration Association. Wright said, however, that the Government would like "compulsory" arbitration set up by legislation for a "legal and sound" court order.

The legal question which may bring the entire arbitration matter before Congress is that the Supreme Court may not feel that it has the power to impose compulsory arbitration to enforce a decree in the industry anti-trust case.

U. S. Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

is opposed to "voluntary" arbitration as a means of enforcement of the decree. Also, he said, the defendants should not be permitted to determine clearance for films. Wright refused to comment on the Government's stand on the competitive bidding plan. The Government, it is believed, will make little mention or issue of the bidding system in its appeal inasmuch as that practice was given as relief in the case. The Government, of course, will appeal for complete theatre divorcement.

Attorney General Tom Clark has already looked over proposed arguments in the appeal and has approved it.

Reviews

"Over the Santa Fe Trail"

(*Columbia*)

A MATTER of music practically all the way, with Ken Curtis, a rather expressionless cowboy hero, offering the spurs-and-saddle type of ballads, with the "Hoosier Hot Shots" going through their zany routines, and with Jennifer Holt, Noel Neill, the DeCastro Sisters and Art West and his Sunset Riders also contributing to the songfest.

Colbert Clark's production, as directed by Ray Nazarro, gives the music the upper hand to such an extent that the conventional outdoor action plot is virtually rendered ineffectual.

Louise Rousseau's screenplay, from a story by Eileen Gary, considers the plight of a medicine-show troupe beset by a band of outlaws swooping down from the hills to relieve the group of its assets after every performance. Strangely enough, each town they hit is troubled by a bank robbery. Curtis digs to the roots of the crimes between songs. Guy Kibee, Guinn 'Big Boy' Williams, Holmes Herbert and others are in the cast.

Running time, 63 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 13.

G. A.

"A Yank in Rome"

(*Lux-World Wide*)

BEGUILING simplicity and naturalness pervade this Italian-made film about a fun-loving American soldier who, while on a furlough in Rome during World War II, falls in love with an elusive, serious-minded signorina of uncommon blonde beauty. Produced by Lux Films, at what must have been minimum cost since almost all of the scenes were shot against actual countryside and metropolitan backgrounds, "A Yank in Rome" has dialogue in both Italian and English, with English sub-titles provided when Italian is spoken, which is most of the time. Because no compromise is made with the language difference, realism and authenticity seem doubly strengthened and so dominate the picture as to make certain defects, such as technically inferior photography and a pedestrian pace, seem relatively minor.

Happily for the story's sweethearts themselves, however, there is actually no language barrier, since the soldier, whose mother was Italian, has an advantage over his comrades in being able to speak Italian fluently.. The maiden with whom he falls in love is visiting Rome to hasten a shipment of relief supplies to her destitute and bombed-out village. She takes particular pains to evade the young man because, in addition to being too busy for frivolity, she misinterprets his persistent attentions as being those of just a soldier on a spree. However, following a series of gay times, largely produced by chance circumstances, she comes to recognize his honorable intentions and admits her love for him. Some of the action transpires in and near St. Peter's Cathedral, providing glimpse of a Papal ceremony and the architectural magnificence of the edifice. In the film's final scene, which embodies a poignant tribute to Italo-American friendship, the soldier departs for the front promising to return to the girl.

Valentina Cortese and Leo Dale, in the principal roles, top a competent cast capably directed by Luigi Zampa. World Wide Film Corp. has here an importation that is both pleasant entertainment and a strong booster for international brotherhood.

Running time, 110 minutes. General audience classification.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

'U'Sales Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

discussion of selling and advertising plans of "The Egg and I," and other U-I product to be released during the next six months. William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, will preside at the two-day meeting. John Joseph, national publicity head, will discuss promotion.

Among others who will attend are district managers P. T. Dana, Cleveland, Dave Miller, Buffalo, and J. J. Scully, Boston; branch managers Max Cohen, Cleveland, Francis J. Guehl, Pittsburgh, Eugene Vogel, Albany, J. J. Spandau, Buffalo, Arthur Greenfield, New Haven, E. Myer Feltman, Boston, George E. Schwartz, Philadelphia, Harry J. Martin, Washington, David A. Levy, New York.

Also, A. W. Perry and Mark Plottel from Canada, Nat Goldberg from the New York exchange; Lester Zucker and Joe Oulahan, Eastern sales representatives for the J. Arthur Rank division; L. J. McGinley, Prestige Pictures sales manager, and home office executives A. J. O'Keefe, E. T. Gomersall, William J. Heineman, Fred Meyers, F. J. A. McCarthy, E. L. McEvoy, F. T. Murray, B. G. Kranze, James J. Jordan, Morris Alin and Adolph Schimel.

Gould Re-shuffles So. American Staff

Promotion of Jorge Suarez, United Artists manager in Chile, to general manager in Argentina, and appointment of A. W. Katz, the company's pre-war manager in China and Japan, to the post of manager in Singapore, succeeding Fred S. Gulbransen, resigned, was announced here yesterday by Walter Gould, foreign manager. Suarez assumes the post made vacant by the appointment of Sam Bekeris, former Argentine head, to UA supervisor of the southern tier of Latin-American countries.

Arnoldo Binder, former assistant to Suarez in Chile, has been promoted to acting manager in that territory. Juan Camarda, manager of the Valparaiso branch, has been transferred to Santiago as assistant manager and has been replaced as manager in Valparaiso by Edgardo Hartley, former Santiago booker.

Ritchey of Monogram Sets Brazil Company

Monogram Pictures of Brazil, Inc., has been organized by Monogram International with offices in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Curitiba and Recife, Norton V. Ritchey, Monogram International president, has announced.

H. Alfredo Steinberg, former Monogram representative in Brazil, has been appointed general manager of the new company.

Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

CBS is not only far from being ready for commercialization but also has basic limitations so that it can never render a satisfactory commercial service to the public, E. W. Engstrom, vice-president in charge of research for RCA Laboratories, testified.

F. J. Bingley, chief television engineer of Philco Corp., again raised the point of home reception to determine the value of color television. He said that in seven out of eight test locations within 25 miles of the transmitter in New York a color picture could not be seen even when elaborate antenna installations, far too costly for the average home owner, were resorted to. Columbia engineers themselves conceded that it was useless to even try to pick up the color signals any more than 25 miles away.

Momand Case

(*Continued from page* 1)

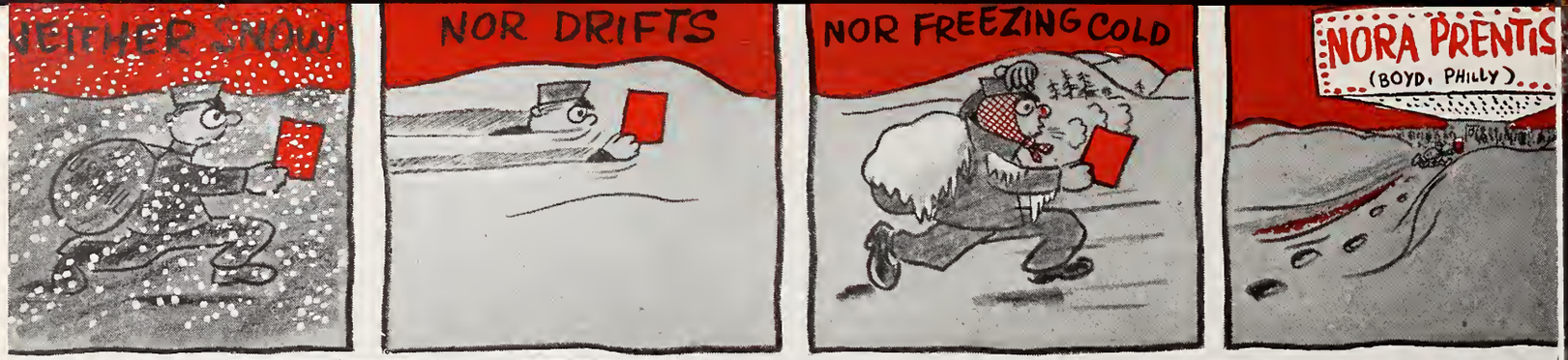
Universal. Griffith Amusement also was named in the original action, which the Oklahoma City Federal District Court dismissed in 1936.

An appeal was taken to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver and there dismissed, but without prejudice, thus allowing a renewal of the suit after technical changes in the petition.

Earlier, in a separate action, the Oklahoma court ordered a $41,000 judgment against Paramount, and one of $6,900 against Griffith.

The present case went to trial here Jan. 6 after many proceedings concerning the validity of the claim.

Another action by Momand against the distributors is pending in Buffalo Federal District Court.



To our darling Valentine
ANN SHERIDAN

Congrats on your socky performance!
"Nora Prentiss" has opened
in Philly in the face of a
blizzard and topped "Mildred Pierce"!
We'll be seeing wonderful you
Next Friday at the N.Y. HOLLYWOOD!

Warners

N SHERIDAN in "NORA PRENTISS" Co-Starring KENT SMITH · BRUCE BENNETT · ROBERT ALDA · ROSEMARY DE CAMP · Screen Play by N. Richard Nash · From a Story by Paul Webster & Jack Sobell · Music by Franz Waxman · Directed by VINCENT SHERMAN · Producer WILLIAM J

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 32 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1947 TEN CENTS

M. P. Industry Foundation Is Chartered

Mid-May Trustees' Parley Is Viewed by Goldenson

The Motion Picture Foundation became a legal entity on Friday, a certificate of incorporation and the by-laws having been filed in the District of Columbia, Leonard Goldenson, chairman of the Foundation's committee on organization, announced at the weekend. In making the announcement, Goldenson, who is president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., pointed out that the Foundation is the first industry-wide foundation of its kind to be established in the U. S.

The next step to be taken in the organization of the Foundation will be the setting of exchange area meetings, Goldenson said, for the purpose of having a national trustee named

(*Continued on page* 8)

Boasberg Head of New RKO Division

Revamping of RKO Radio's sales organization, with Charles Boasberg moving up today to assume direction of a new division embracing the New York Metropolitan district and the Southeastern, Southwestern and Canadian districts, was announced Friday by Robert Mochrie, vice-president and general sales manager.

Leon S. Gruenberg, Rocky Mountain district manager, has been as-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Para. Parley Opens Today in Florida

St. Augustine, Fla., Feb. 16.—Public reaction to product that has been attacked on grounds of morally objectionable content, general theatre operational problems and the subject of competitive bidding are among the items expected to bulk large at the meeting of Paramount home office officials with theatre partners and associates which will start here tomorrow at the Ponce de Leon Hotel. The sessions, which are to continue throughout the week, will also hear discussions by attorneys Louis Phillips and Walter Gross of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit and the problems to be confronted in operating under it.

20th-Fox In NY Sales Meet

The first postwar national sales conference of 20th Century-Fox will open here today at the Hotel Astor with Tom J. Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, presiding. The conference will continue through Wednesday during which time discussions will cover new sales procedures and other plans for the company's 1947 product. In attendance will be divisional sales managers, district and branch managers and home office executives headed by Spyros P. Skouras, president.

Tom Connors

Today's meeting will center about discussions of the general operation of the company in the light of the recent court decree, and plans will be

(*Continued on page* 8)

Warner Looks for US-UK Agreement

Hollywood, Feb. 16.—Optimistic over future international trade relations in the motion picture field, Jack L. Warner, production head of Warner Bros., is here from a New York visit and after more than two months surveying conditions and concluding a number of deals for his company in England and in Europe. He predicts a new British-American film trade

(*Continued on page* 3)

Schaefer to Enterprise

Hollywood, Feb. 16. — George Schaefer, formerly president of RKO and vice-president of Paramount and United Artists, was elected vice-president in charge of distribution for Enterprise Studios at a meeting of its board of directors held here at the weekend.

George Schaefer

Schaefer was national chairman of the War Activities Committee of the motion picture industry, his war record winning him the first Motion Picture Association award for civic and patriotic service.

Schaefer will be in complete charge of all Enterprise distribution, heading the company's sales activities both here and abroad. He will establish an Enterprise home office in New York

(*Continued on page* 8)

U-I Sets $850,000 Ad Budget on 'Egg'

An advertising budget of approximately $850,000 has been allocated for Universal-International's "The Egg and I," John Joseph, U-I director of advertising and publicity, told a regional sales meeting of the company's Eastern and Canadian executives at the Hotel Astor here Friday. The ad budget is the biggest to be set by the company for a single picture.

Chicago 1st-Run Prices Now at an All-time High

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Gradually and without fanfare all Loop theatres have been raising admission prices until today admissions are at the highest peak they have ever been in the history of the local motion picture business.

A survey discloses that the increase for the most part has taken effect in day-time prices. Whereas, only a few short months ago adult admission prices at B. and K. houses during the morning were 55 cents with 65-cent prices going into effect at noon or at one P.M., today every single B. and K. Loop house is charging a straight 95 cents from opening until closing.

The only Loop theatre still charging a 65-cent day-time price is the RKO-Palace. This price is adhered to until five P.M. at which time 95 cents goes into effect.

All prices quoted include the tax.

Universal and Columbia Hold Off on Bidding

United Artists Defers Action on 200 Requests

By TOM LOY

Although the competitive-bidding method of selling pictures is being adopted increasingly among the five distributing companies which have been parties to the six-year-old consent decree, Universal, Columbia and possibly United Artists will not inaugurate competitive sales prior to the July 1 effective date set up by the New York Federal District Court and probably will seek a postponement of the bidding order if the U. S. Supreme Court is unable to act upon it by that time.

William A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, declared at the week-

(*Continued on page* 8)

SCTOA Accepts Bid To Forum Meeting

Los Angeles, Feb. 16.—The Southern California Theatre Owners Association board has accepted the invitation of Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, to attend the national independent exhibitor meeting at the Astor Hotel, New York, on March 10 and 11, to discuss formation of a motion picture forum and development of a new industry arbitration system. Paul Williams,

(*Continued on page* 8)

14 Univ. Directors Up for Reelection

Reelection of 14 directors and authorization to retire 155,000 shares of Universal common stock issued in connection with the acquisition by the company of the assets of International Pictures, last summer will be asked at the annual meeting of Universal stockholders to be held at Wilmington, Del. on March 12.

Directors slated for reelection are: Robert S. Benjamin, Nate J. Blum-

(*Continued on page* 8)

In This Issue

"Fear in the Night" is reviewed on page 3.

Personal Mention

CHARLES D. PRUTZMAN, Universal vice-president and general counsel, will leave for Nassau, B. I., with MRS. PRUTZMAN on Wednesday for a vacation of several weeks.

•

ARTHUR DE BRA and GLENDON ALLVINE of the Motion Picture Association's New York public relations staff, will return here today from Albany, where they spent the weekend on Children's Film Library business.

•

SIDNEY G. ALEXANDER, film account executive of the Brisacher, Van Norden and Staff advertising agency, is due to return here from the Coast either tomorrow or Wednesday.

•

ALTON COOK, *World-Telegram* motion picture critic, and ISADORE GOLDSMITH, British producer, will discuss "Is Hollywood Losing Leadership to British Films?" over CBS tonight.

•

CRESSON E. SMITH, personal representative to PHIL REISMAN, RKO-Radio vice-president in charge of foreign operations, left for South Africa at the weekend.

•

ROBERT MOCHRIE, vice-president and general sales manager of RKO Radio, has returned to New York from Toronto.

•

JACK L. WARNER, Warner Brothers' production vice-president, left New York for the Coast on Friday by plane.

•

GEORGE BERGER, treasurer of the W. S. Butterfield Theatres, Detroit, was married in Chicago yesterday to PHYLIS WALL.

•

JOSEPH J. DEITCH, Paramount theatre executive, will leave New York today for a two-week tour of the Mid-West.

•

MARVIN SCHENCK, Eastern studio representative of M-G-M, will leave New York today for Hot Springs, Ark.

•

WILL H. HAYS will be at his Hidden Valley ranch in California until April.

•

BERT SANFORD, Altec-Lansing sales manager, has been in Atlanta from New York.

•

IRVING RAPPER, Warner director, has returned to the Coast from New York.

•

JULES LEVEY, United Artists producer, has left New York for New Orleans.

•

HARVEY DAY, Eastern representative for JULES LEVEY, has left by train for Hollywood.

•

HARRY H. THOMAS, president and general sales manager of Producers Releasing Corp., has arrived from the Coast.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

ROBERT L. WRIGHT, assistant to the Attorney General in charge of prosecution of the anti-trust suit against the industry, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY's Washington correspondent late last week that the Department, which presumably means Wright, is opposed to voluntary arbitration.

The New York Federal court has retained jurisdiction of the anti-trust case and it would seem obvious that, whether arbitration continued in the industry or not, the Department or any other interested party could go to the court for "enforcement" orders or relief as occasion warranted. Arbitration would not supplant or cancel that right.

Mr. Wright, it would seem, would prefer that exhibitors and distributors be required to go through the costly and time-consuming routine of court procedures with every one of the hundreds of disagreements which are sure to arise when the provisions of the New York court decree are in effect. Apparently, he is not even interested in observing what new procedures and rules of arbitration could be worked out by exhibitor and distributor to make industry arbitration more effective in the future than many exhibitors have found it to be in the past.

•

Mr. Wright says uncompromisingly that he is opposed to voluntary arbitration in the industry. Simultaneously, the word goes out that the Department is giving thought to approaching Congress for legislation which would set up a Government arbitration bureau for the industry. Presumably, this would be done only in the event the Supreme Court decisions on appeals in the industry anti-trust case made such a course appear to be advisable to the Department. Arbitration would be compulsory under the Department's plan.

That would be Government control and interference in the industry with a vengeance. Those exhibitors who are leary of arbitration even when on a voluntary basis would do well to examine carefully this new development. Many of them, despite the Department's record in this case, blindly persist in regarding the Department as the exhibitor's champion.

What are the recent facts?

By far the great majority of exhibitors have been and still are opposed to competitive bidding for films as ordered under the New York court decree. The Department, fully aware of that opposition, did absolutely nothing to put the exhibitor viewpoint before the court or to have the order modified.

In desperation, the exhibitors brought their own pleadings to the court. Some of them were mocked and disparaged by the Department. Others, who sought to intervene in the suit, were opposed by the Department in that effort and, fantastically enough, on the ground that the Department adequately represented exhibition in the case.

Next, a large segment of exhibition, realizing the controversy that inevitably will develop with application of the New York decree, essay an attempt to improve industry arbitration to a degree which would offer some hope of keeping litigants out of the courts throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Department makes known its unalterable opposition to voluntary arbitration, wanted by many exhibitors, and, lets it be known that it has given some thought, instead, to asking Congress for legislation to make arbitration compulsory under a Government bureau.

That, certainly, is something no exhibitor has asked for and something no exhibitor in his right mind would welcome.

Theoretically, it is true that the Department of Justice represents the exhibitor in the industry suit. Unfortunately, there are many kinds of representation, as all who have observed the workings of Government agree.

• •

This week the industry in all its branches will be contributing its vital and always effective services to the observance of American Brotherhood Week. The production community has contributed an eloquent film which distribution will supply to theatres. Screening of the film and obtaining pledges to observe the spirit and the letter of American Brotherhood are the contributions of exhibition. It is, of course, through the theatres as much or more than through any other media, that public consciousness of and support for the splendid aims of the National Conference of Christians and Jews will be enlarged in time to the point at which there no longer will be need for a brotherhood week.

Newsreel Parade

CANINE fanciers and sports devotees, as well as students of world affairs, should especially find current newsreels entertaining and instructive. Spotlighted are the Madison Square Garden dog show, bob-sledding, surf-riding, skiing, more on the Palestine crisis, the carnival in Nice, new developments in the battle of the Georgia governors, President Truman being honored by Greek Archbishop Athenagoras, and sundry other domestic and foreign items. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 49 — "Task Force Frost" tests U. S. Army winter equipment. Georgia judge rules Herman Talmadge is legal governor. President Truman gets a Greek decoration. Assay Commission tests U. S. coins. Churchill's daughter weds. Carnival time on the Riviera. Fashions at Grand Canyon. Sports: Madison Square Garden dog show, Australian surf carnival.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 247—British start Palestine evacuations. Churchill's daughter weds. Battle of the Georgia governors. Claude Jarman, Jr., boy film star, is honored. Archbishop of Greece makes award to Truman. Army's "Operation Frigid." Canine champs at Madison Square Garden. Bob-sledding.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 50—World's biggest dog show at Madison Square Garden. People in the eyes of the world: Col. Jack W. Durant, President Truman and Greek Archbishop Athenagoras, Amir Saud, crown prince of Arabia. Report from Palestine. Nice's famous carnival revived. Fuel crisis paralyzes Britain.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 52 — British families flee Palestine. Truman and U. S. honor Lincoln. Gay carnival in Nice. Trial of Hesse jewel case. New way to aid wounded. Tokyo firemen in show. Army task force in the Arctic. Mayor O'Dwyer fights New York subway fare rise.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 13—U. S. Army tests its men, guns and tanks under zero weather conditions. Riviera has a carnival. Daring rescue of marooned British seamen. Westminister Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. Bob-sled races in France. Central U. S. ski meet.

NY, Washington MPA Staffs Meet Here

The New York and Washington staffs of the Motion Picture Association met here Friday to coordinate the functions of both offices. The Washington group included Eric A. Johnston, president, who presided; Kenneth Clark, director of public relations, and Johnston's special assistants, Edward T. Cheyfitz, Jack Bryson and Joyce O'Hara. Francis Harmon, New York vice-president, is now vacationing in Palm Springs.

Loss Leaves Cinecolor

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—William Loss, who became vice-president of Cinecolor two months ago, announced his resignation on Friday. No successor has been named. Loss will return to New York soon.

Colby to Paramount

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—Anita Colby, recently with Selznick Enterprises, will join Paramount shortly as a member of vice-president Henry Ginsberg's executive staff.

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Extend British Ban On Film Showings

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The British government's fuel ban, brought about by the nation's coal shortage, has been extended to forbid children's matinee shows before four P.M., with 3:30 now stipulated as the time for remoter areas, including Scotland. Heretofore a similar ban applied only to adults. Under time limitations also are usages of theatre organs, electrically-operated curtains, decorative lighting, etc.

Concurrently with issuance of the new ban, the government has admonished the industry that unless the most extreme economy is employed in the crisis, even present concessions will be cancelled.

Except for West End matinee theatres and houses in snowbound areas, exhibitors generally report a slight falling off in business, but they have discovered in many instances that people who normally attend races, now completely banned, are turning to motion pictures. Tributes have been widely paid to the transport arrangements which, despite ice- and snowbound roads, are keeping the supply of films moving. Nevertheless, behind the scenes there is considerable apprehension about the future, in view of the closing of laboratories.

Myers Attacks C. & O. 'Theatre on Wheels'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Abram F. Myers, Allied States counsel, charged here on Friday that the new "Theatre on Wheels," established by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and Universal, is "possibly illegal" and a matter which may interest the Interstate Commerce Commission. Myers says that he will bring the matter to the attention of the ICC.

Myers declared that this is the first time that a major film company "actively connived" in putting pictures in a premium or give-away class. "Hard-pressed exhibitors during the depression were criticized for giving away dishes in order to stimulate attendance; now the C. & O. gives away movies in order to promote travel," Myers asserted.

Universal home office officials declined to comment on Abram Myers' attack on the "Theatre on Wheels."

2 More Sentenced In Army Film Case

Abe Robert Goldstein has been sentenced to 90 days and a $300 fine on his plea of guilty to the Grand Jury indictment charging him and four other defendants with having taken and carried away for their own use, and with intent to steal, United States property from the Army's Photographic Center at Long Island City. The Government property was the motion picture "Cinderella Jones." Melvin Maurice Baker was fined $100 on his plea of guilty to the same count, but received a suspended sentence and was put on a year's probation.

The three remaining defendants, who had previously pleaded guilty to the same count, had been sentenced in U. S. District Court on January 17 to a fine of $100 each and 30 days in jail.

Review

"Fear in the Night"

(Paramount)

Hollywood, Feb. 16

AS his first directorial chore for producers William Pine and William Thomas, Maxwell Shane selected a story by William Irish, and himself adapted it—most ingeniously—to the screen. The combination of flashback and narrative, a device employed for the presentation of a good part of the picture, is far more skilfully handled by Shane than by various veteran directors who have lately attempted it. In his hands the story emerges as a melodrama of compelling interest, certain sequences of which are guaranteed to raise the short hairs on the customers' napes.

DeForest Kelley, portraying the part of a bank clerk whose only distinctive characteristic is an extreme docility, is the protagonist one night of a strange dream in which he kills a man. The murder takes place in a mirror-lined room, and is witnessed by a blonde woman. Other details of the dream include an odd-shaped key, and a button torn from the corpse's coat.

When Kelley awakens, he finds the key and the button among his personal effects. Convinced that his nightmare was no dream but an actual incident, he appeals to his brother-in-law for help. The latter, a hard-headed detective, places little credence in the story until the pair stumble upon the very room in which the murder was committed, and find traces there of the dire deed.

How Kelley extricates himself from a damning net of evidence, and how the person actually responsible for the murder is exposed, are matters it would be unfair to divulge. Suffice it to say that the denouement is both suspenseful and convincing. Particularly effective is Jack Greenhalgh's photography of the sequences conveying the nightmare quality of certain of Kelley's experiences. Paul Kelly, Kay Scott, Ann Doran, Robert Emmett Keane, Jeff Yorke and Charles Victor round out the cast, with the first-named outstanding in the role of detective.

Running time, 71 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

Films, Local Groups To Aid Brotherhood

"American Brotherhood Week" was launched nationally yesterday in theatres concurrently with an announcement by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, that film houses will serve as focal points for 9,000 groups forming permanent brotherhood committees to fight group prejudice. Spyros P. Skouras, chairman of the industry's Brotherhood drive, states that a preliminary check shows that exhibitors across the country had indicated industry co-operation in formation of permanent local groups to fight prejudice throughout the year.

Under the NCCJ's plan, theatres would serve as community centers in gaining the support of representatives in each community to serve as an active group in situations requiring the mobilization of public opinion. These groups would attempt to determine the causes of prejudice and take steps to prevent their spreading.

New E-L Radio Manager

Patrece Snyder has been named radio manager for Eagle-Lion Films, by Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity. She has been serving as special assistant to Youngstein since joining Eagle-Lion four months ago. A native of Spokane, Miss Snyder entered the industry three years ago as a member of 20th Century-Fox's exploitation department.

Favor More D.C. Theatres

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Fifty-one per cent of Washington area residents interviewed by the *Washington Post* in a poll believe there are not sufficient places of entertainment in this city, with the majority recommending construction of more film houses.

Marx Heads Group On Video Problems

Action of Wood, Dolson Co., New York apartment management firm, in refusing to give tenants permission to erect television antennae "until such time as some scientific method has been devised for a master aerial," has prompted the Television Broadcasters Association to designate Ernest A. Marx, general manager of the Allen B. DuMont Laboratories receiver division, to organize the TBA's affiliate members with a view to meeting this problem and others confronting the industry.

Most industry observers believe the master aerial difficulty will be solved in the fairly near future, before too many landlords adopt the stand taken by Wood, Dolson.

New Television Outfit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—Broadway producer John Wildberg has announced formation of the Wildberg Television Production Corp., with headquarters in New York, to which he will devote his entire time. The new company already has several large industrial firms and advertising agencies as clients.

'Yearling' in Midwest

M-G-M's "The Yearling" will have its Midwestern premiere at the State Lake, Chicago, Feb. 20. This will mark the third opening for the film, now in its eighth week at the Carthay Circle, Los Angeles, and in its third week at Radio City Music Hall, New York.

Korda Signs Leigh

Vivien Leigh has been signed by Alexander Korda to star in "Anna Karenina," novel by Count Leo Tolstoy. Production will start at Korda's London Studio April 15, under direction of Julien Duvivier.

De Mille Urges U. S. Ban on Closed Shop

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Cecil B. DeMille voiced opposition to the closed shop in appearing before the Senate labor and public welfare committee on Friday. He charged that closed shop practices are keeping fresh and needed talent from the screen.

DeMille charged labor unions with practicing monopoly. He told the committee that the leadership in the current Hollywood strike was not exaggerating when one of its spokesmen said: "We contemplate putting out a bill so everyone in the country has to join a union, and you will be in a bad fix when it comes to that."

DeMille emphasized that he appeared before the committee as "a private citizen and not as a spokesman for any group."

Cecil B. DeMille will be Paramount's guest at a trade press luncheon on Wednesday at the 21 Club here.

Coast Unit to Build Drive-in Circuit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—United States Drive-In Theatres has been formed to operate theatres within a 35-mile radius of Los Angeles under the Hollingshead patent owned by Park-In Theatres, Inc., of Camden, N. J., an affiliated corporation.

Charles A. Caballero is president, William R. Forman and Gus C. Diamond are vice-presidents, and John H. Tingle is treasurer of the new company.

Name Peterson Aide To Schary at RKO

Edgar Peterson has been signed to a five-year contract by RKO Radio as executive assistant to Dore Schary, vice-president in charge of production, the home office reported here at the weekend.

For two years Peterson was associated with Schary at Vanguard Productions and at RKO Radio when Schary produced four.

US-UK Agreement

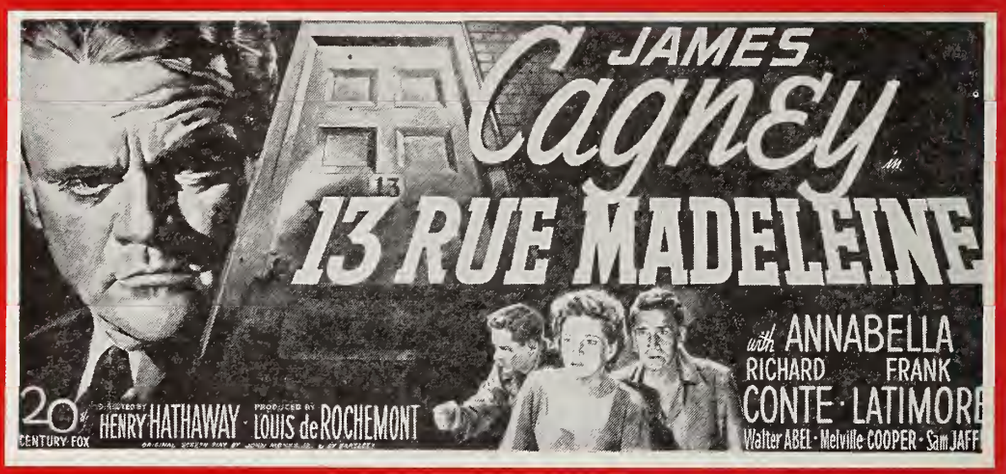
(Continued from page 1)

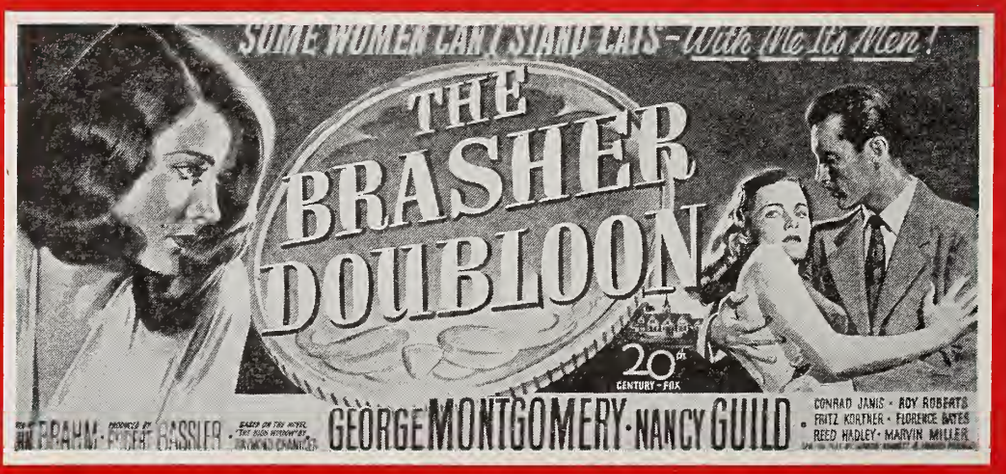
agreement will be made this spring. Warner said, "It seems likely some restrictive quota will be placed on Hollywood product, but I am satisfied that the real future of all international film relations—not alone with England—is in the hands of hundreds of millions of theatregoers themselves.

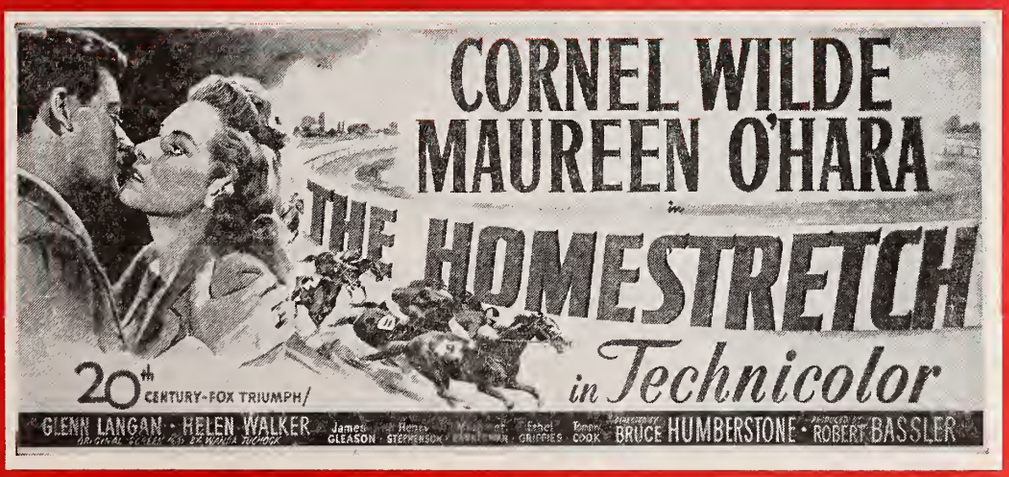
"Entertainment cannot be created by legislation. It can be excluded or curtailed by quotas, license requirements and other controls, but only with consequent loss to both sides. It is futile for two great nations to set up artificial barriers against free interchange of creative art and constructive films which can work importantly for better international understanding and strengthening of world peace. The only basis for consideration should be quality. If a picture is good, there is welcome for it everywhere. If is bad, no amount of protective action can make it acceptable to entertainment seekers in its own or any other country."

THE RECORDS NOW BEING BROKEN BY THESE GREAT HITS FROM

CENTURY-FOX







.....WILL NEXT BE TOPPED BY THESE GREAT HITS ON THE WAY FROM

20th CENTURY-FOX

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THERE NEVER WAS A PROMOTION LIKE IT!

A REPUBLIC

Girl

K

1. Nation-wide contest to select America's Calendar Girl.
2. $1,000 in cash prizes—Awards with sock femme appeal.
3. Special local angles with great audience participation.
4. Tremendous local newspaper tie-in appeal.
5. Big merchant cooperative tie-ins.
6. Sock Calendar Girl contest aids for sock grosses.
7. 800 Brown & Bigelow salesmen working with you.
8. Newspaper mats, music promotion, local tie-ups keyed to your playdate.
9. See your Republic branch manager for complete details of this wonderful seat-selling promotion.

Calendar Girl

Starring

JANE FRAZEE • WILLIAM MARSHALL • GAIL PATRICK • KENNY BAKER

with VICTOR McLAGLEN • JAMES ELLISON • IRENE RICH

FRANKLIN PANGBORN • LOU NOVA • GUS SCHILLING

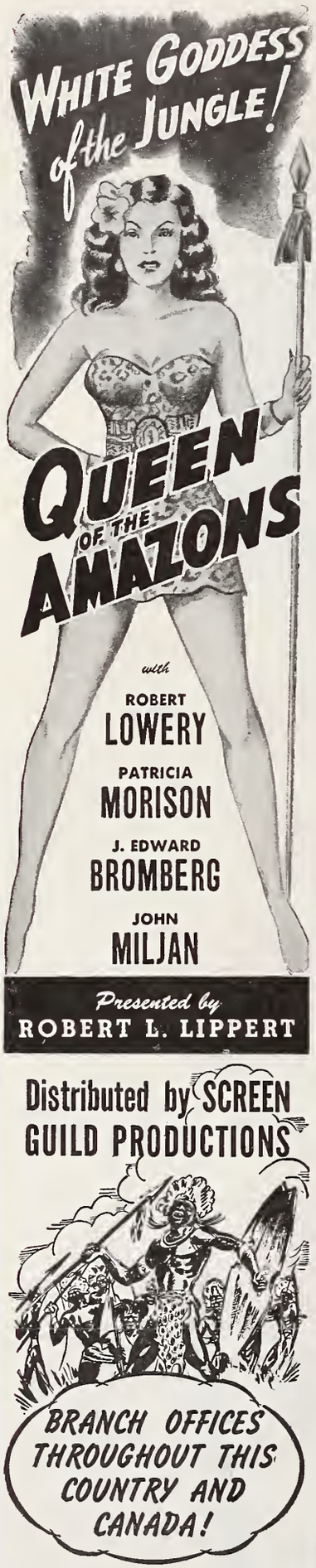
Screen Play by Mary Loos, Richard Sale, Lee Loeb

Original Story by Lee Loeb

Songs by JIMMY McHUGH and HAROLD ADAMSON

Associate Producer-Director ALLAN DWAN

PICTURE



Bidding

(*Continued from page* 1)

end that his company definitely would offer no pictures on the bidding basis prior to July 1, while attorney Louis Frohlich said Columbia will wait as long as possible, pending the outcome of his appeal from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, which already has been filed.

These companies, which were not parties to the consent decree, have been selling their year's product in many situations at the beginning of each season. They desire to continue doing so. A shift to competitive sales, picture by picture, at this time would be a radical and difficult change in their method of doing business, they point out.

United Artists, although selling films singly for its independent producers, likewise is opposed to competitive bidding and will appeal from the provision. The Society of Independent M. P. Producers, including many releasing through UA, are on record before the New York court as wishing to preserve the right to choose their customers. UA has received some 200 requests from theatres wanting to bid for its product, a company spokesman said at the weekend, but none of these have been considered as yet.

Two of the companies which have operated under the consent decree, M-G-M and RKO Radio, already have entered into formal competitive bidding in a number of situations where it has been requested. "Competitive negotiations," which involve sending salesmen to houses asking to become new customers, have been started by 20th Century-Fox and have resulted in some new accounts. Paramount is understood to be planning bidding sales in the near future, except to its "partner" group of theatres. Warners has made no competitive sales as yet and does not plan to do so until required to by law. Warner theatres, however, will enter bids where necessary in order to obtain product, it was reported following discussion of the subject at a meeting of zone managers here last week.

If and when the court's bidding order goes into effect, however, even those distributors which were not parties to the anti-trust suit may be affected, in the opinion of some industry attorneys. Accordingly, PRC and Monogram are making a study of the subject. Edward Morey, Monogram vice-president, said his company may adopt the system. PRC is awaiting the recommendation of counsel, according to vice-president Lloyd Lind. No statement on Republic's policy was available at the weekend in the absence of vice-president J. Grainger.

H. Mayer Named WB Talent Head in N.Y.

Harry Mayer has been appointed Warner talent director in charge of all company talent activities out of New York. Mayer will also continue his present duties as head of the talent booking department for Warner Theatres, and in addition will take over supervision of scouting operations for new talent in the U. S., Canada, England and Europe.

SCTOA Accepts

(*Continued from page* 1)

SCTOA executive secretary, was designated to represent the organization at the meeting. He will be accompanied by Harry Vinnicoff, member of the SCTOA board.

The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, following the Allied States "party line," declined an invitation to attend the New York meeting.

The SCTOA, in accepting the invitation, urged that "a united exhibitor front" be presented at the meeting to plan and build constructively in order to overcome the uncertainties of the future.

M.P. Foundation

(*Continued from page* 1)

for each area. It is hoped, he said, that these meetings will be held in March, with all details completed by mid-April so that by mid-May a meeting of the national trustees can be held preliminary to putting the foundation into full operation. By the time the May meeting is held, Goldenson said, the Foundation's goal, a $10,000,000 fund to be used for intra-industry welfare purposes, is expected to be reached and perhaps be considerably augmented by special bequests.

20th-Fox Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

formulated for future sales operation under it.

Tuesday's meeting will be devoted to sales procedure and a report by Skouras on his recent studio conferences with Darryl F. Zanuck and Joseph M. Schenck on forthcoming pictures.

During the three-day sessions there will be addresses by Connors, John F. Caskey, counsel, general sales manager William J. Kupper, divisional sales managers Herman Wobber, Harry Ballance and Andrew W. Smith, Jr. W. C. Gehring, Central division sales manager, who is convalescing from a recent operation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., will not be able to attend the meetings.

Schaefer to Enterprise

(*Continued from page* 1)

immediately upon his return to that city.

Schaefer started a series of conferences here Friday at Enterprise Studios, climaxed by a dinner Saturday night in his honor, with Enterprise stars and producing partners attending, include Charles Boyer, John Garfield, Joel McCrea, Ginger Rogers, Norma Shearer, Barbara Stanwyck, and David Lewis, Lewis Milestone, Wolfgang Reinhardt, R. B. Roberts, Robert Rossen, Harry Sherman, board chairman David Loew, Enterprise president Charles Einfeld.

He will confer with Ingrid Bergman immediately upon his arrival in New York and will go into a series of meetings with distribution executives of Loew's International, through whose foreign exchanges Enterprise will release outside of the U. S. and Canada. At the same time he will plan meetings with distribution heads of United Artists, which will release Enterprise product domestically.

New RKO Division

(*Continued from page* 1)

signed to New York to replace Boasberg as Metropolitan district manager.

With the new division RKO Radio now will have three major sales divisions: Western, headed by Walter E. Branson; Eastern, under Nat Levy, and the newly-created one. Boasberg, who joined RKO in 1931 as salesman in Buffalo, was advanced until, in April, 1944, he assumed the Metropolitan managership. Guenberg, who began his association with RKO in 1934 as Minneapolis branch salesman, is captain of the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive."

Under the re-divisioning, the Southeastern district, now part of the added division, is headed by David Prince in Atlanta, and the Southwestern district is headed by Ben Y. Cammack in Dallas. Phil Hodes is manager of the New York exchange, while Leo M. Devaney continues as Canadian district manager.

14 Univ. Directors

(*Continued from page* 1)

berg, Paul G. Brown, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, Matthew Fox, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer and G. I. Woodham-Smith. Benjamin and Woodham-Smith were elected to the board during the past year. D. C. Collins, W. H. Taylor, Jr., and Cliff Work retired from the board during the year.

Fire Destroys Theatre

ATLANTA, Feb. 16.—Fire of undetermined origin has destroyed the Martin and Thompson Princess Theatre and the circuit's headquarters at Hawkinsville. All home office records were destroyed, which caused damages estimated at $125,000.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 33 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1947 | TEN CENTS

RKO Reports Progress in Ending Pools

4 With Majors Already Dissolved: Kingsberg

By TOM LOY

Having completed termination of its four pools with other distributor-owned theatre circuits, RKO Theatres now is in the process of ending the few pools it has with independent exhibitors and anticipates no difficulty in completing the latter task by the July 1 deadline which the Federal District Court has set, in the New York case, according to Malcolm Kingsberg, president of the company, who has returned here following a month's vacation and business trip to the Coast.

Malcolm Kingsberg

(*Continued on page* 10)

Berge Will Keep Swinging Till End

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Wendell Berge, whose resignation as head of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice will take effect on May 1, will map Government strategy in connection with its own and defense appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit, prior to his departure from

(*Continued on page* 10)

Marshall, Clayton To Aid Film Pacts

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Undersecretary of State William Clayton has pledged his complete support to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, in the effort to eliminate trade barriers imposed upon films abroad. Clayton in particular promised to support MPA efforts

(*Continued on page* 10)

20th-Fox Will Not Appeal Court Decision

That 20th Century-Fox will not appeal the decision in the New York Federal Court case became apparent yesterday during the opening sessions of the first annual sales meeting since the war, being held through tomorrow, at the Hotel Astor here.

Distribution methods under the industry anti-trust decree was the focal point of the discussions yesterday, as divisional sales, district and branch managers convened to smooth out company policy on such points as clearances and competitive negotiations on licensing.

With 20th-Fox apparently prepared to adopt competitive bidding practices after July 1, the date set by the New

(*Continued on page* 11)

Grainger Presides At Dallas Meeting

DALLAS, Feb. 17.—James R. Grainger, Republic executive vice-president in charge of sales and distribution, presided today at the opening session of a three-day sales meeting and introduced Walter L. Titus, Jr., in his new capacity as Southern division sales manager.

The meetings are being attended by Southwestern district sales manager Norman J. Colquhoun, branch managers Thomas Burton Kirk, Dallas; Nat Wyse, Memphis, and David Hunt, Oklahoma City, as well as by the Dallas sales force.

Senate Passes Bill To Keep Excise Tax

Washington, Feb. 17.—A bill to retain excise taxes, including the 20 per cent levy on admissions, at wartime levels was adopted today by the Senate. Because of amendments differing from the legislation passed by the House last month, the two bills will now go to a conference committee comprising members of both houses.

Cohn Without Col. Contract Since '45, Stockholders Told

Harry Cohn, Columbia Pictures president, has been working without a contact since June 30, 1945, when his last pact with the company expired, it is revealed in letters to stockholders of the company signed by Charles Schwartz, secretary.

Simultaneously, notice is given to stockholders that a meeting will be held at the home office on March 11, in lieu of the annual meeting of stockholders, at which time seven directors will be elected and shareholders will be asked to approved new employment contracts with Jack Cohn, executive vice-president, and Abe Montague, vice-president in charge of domestic sales, together with the issuance of stock options to Montague, B. B. Kahane, Lester Roth, Irving Briskin and Gerald Rackett.

Relating that Harry Cohn's present salary, $182,000 a year, is the same as it was in 1932, the letter to stockholders says: "Our directors feel that it is important that a new contract be made with Mr. Cohn assuring the

(*Continued on page* 11)

"My Favorite Brunette"

[*Paramount*]—Hope Clicks Again

YOU might call this a companion piece to one Bob Hope made in 1942. Madeleine Carroll was his opposite number in the early one which was titled "My Favorite Blonde." Dorothy Lamour is the feminine lure this time which, no doubt, explains why it's "My Favorite Brunette." More to the point is the fact that this is an attraction tailored astutely for Hope and the Hopian talents, and a perfectly swell hunk of box-office merchandise.

Bob tells his story in the death cell block at San Quentin where he is about to enter the gas chamber, convicted for the murder of Reginald Denny. In retrospect to reporters, he tells how he got that way. This is how:

A baby photographer, and like practically everybody else, Hope wants

(*Continued on page* 7)

Industry Bars Some Export Films Itself

MPEA Acts to Silence Critics Here and Abroad

By JIM H. BRADY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The industry is increasingly imposing voluntary censorship over pictures sent abroad and the Motion Picture Export Association is making an effort to eliminate those which do not portray the true American way of life, it was brought out here today during an informal luncheon attended by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, and trade press representatives.

Several films have been banned by M.P.E.A., it was learned. Pictures such as "Tobacco Road" or "Weekend at the Waldorf," go to extremes, it is said. The Association, through

(*Continued on page* 10)

Need All Box Office Potential: Schaefer

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—"Getting the ultimate ten per cent of a picture's potential gross means more to a company's financial welfare than exceeding its production budget by that figure," George Schaefer said today on

(*Continued on page* 11)

Assembly Approves Obscene Ad Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 17. — The amended Wilson Bill permitting the Education Department of the Motion Picture Division to revoke the license of a film where any of its advertising is obscene, indecent or immoral, etc., passed the Assembly tonight without

(*Continued on page* 11)

Reviewed Inside

"The Sin of Harold Diddlebock," page 7; "Pursued," "Big Town," page 10; "Dangerous Venture," "Renegade Girl," page 11; "Seven Were Saved," "The Shop at Sly Corner," page 9.

Key city grosses, Page 8.

Schnitzer to Line Up Sales Meeting

The exodus of United Artists sales executives from the home office in preparation for the company's regional meetings will begin tomorrow with the departure of Edward M. Schnitzer, eastern and Canadian sales manager, who will leave for Buffalo to conduct the first of the four-day sessions to be held throughout the country. The Buffalo meetings will start on Feb. 22.

Attending will be district and branch managers and salesmen from the New York, New Haven, Buffalo, Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, St. John and Winnipeg branches. Edward C. Raftery, president of United Artists; J. J. Unger, general sales manager, and Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director, will leave for Buffalo next Monday to be present at the final day's session on Tuesday when they will address the delegates on matters of sales policy, current and forthcoming product and ad-publicity plans.

Unger is scheduled to address the Pittsburgh meeting on Feb. 27, proceeding from there to El Paso on Feb. 28, then to Chicago for the four-day Chicago meeting, starting March 6.

David Chatkin to be Buried in Chicago

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—The body of David Chatkin, head of M-G-M's music department who died of heart trouble here at the weekend, will be flown Wednesday to Chicago for burial. Funeral services were held in Beverly Hills on Sunday. Chatkin, who was 58, is survived by his widow, three brothers and a sister.

One of Chatkin's earliest posts in the motion picture industry was that of general sales manager of the old Educational Pictures. He later became an executive of Paramount's Publix Theatres Corp. at the inception of that organization.

He left Publix in late 1932 and, in association with Milton H. Feld and Harry Katz, formed Monarch Theatres, Inc., operating theatres in Ohio and Indiana with headquarters in New York.

Charles Schwerin, 67

Charles F. Schwerin, industry veteran, died last week on his 67th birthday. He was associated with the old Essankay Amusement Corp. He later joined Grand National Pictures, First National, Metro-Goldwyn Distributing Corp., and Columbia, among others. He is survived by his widow and a son, Jules Victor.

Charles E. Esterley

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 17.—Charles E. Esterley, owner of the State Theatre here, and for a time distributor of sound equipment, died Sunday morning at his home. He is survived by his widow and daughter. Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon.

Personal Mention

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal advertising-publicity director, will leave here for the Coast today after conferences with Universal officials.

•

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount Coast executive, visited FRANK HARRIS, former owner of the Harris Drive-In Theatres at Atlanta, while en route to the Paramount meeting in St. Augustine, Fla.

•

NED CLARKE, RKO-Radio Latin-American Division manager, has returned here after visiting the company's offices in the Caribbean area and South America.

•

MURRAY SILVERSTONE, president of 20th Century-Fox and Inter-America, will return today aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* from a month's visit to London and Paris.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatres, left New York last night for a two-week stay in Mexico City.

•

HAL CARLETON, M-G-M advertising chief for Australia and New Zealand, has returned here by air from Sydney.

•

MIKE SPECTOR, Universal-International Eastern talent representative, is the father of a son born last Friday.

•

WILLIAM ISRAEL, manager of the Earle Theatre, Philadelphia, is in Miami.

•

BILL HIGGINBOTHAM, assistant manager of the Fox Theatre, Atlanta, is the father of a baby girl.

•

RICHARD SETTOON has left Paramount's sales staff in Memphis to join Universal.

•

DEWEY HOPPER, of 20th Century-Fox, Memphis, is the father of a new son.

•

MYRON MEYER, Malco, Inc., executive, has married MARY DEAN NIX, Memphis actress.

•

BERNARD R. GOODMAN, Warner exchange supervisor, is back here from a four-week tour of branch offices.

NEIL AGNEW, president of Selznick Releasing Organization, is in Washington today. He will return here tomorrow.

•

JACK COHN, executive vice-president and DAVID A. O'MALLEY, advertising-publicity director of Columbia, returned to New York yesterday from a month's tour of South America.

•

ALFRED CORWIN, publicity-advertising manager of the Motion Picture Export Association, is the father of a baby girl.

•

MR. and MRS. PETER PERAKOS, of Perakos Theatres, in Connecticut, are in Florida vacationing with their son, JOHN.

•

L. G. SMITH has been appointed manager of the Peach Theatre, Fort Valley, Ga., replacing AL ROCKE, resigned.

•

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE international president, is due here from Hollywood this week.

•

FRED CONDON has succeeded ED O'CONNELL as manager of the Newington Theatre, in Newington, Conn.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, Warner Eastern district manager, is in Boston for the rest of the week.

•

RALPH OLDKNOW, Roxy Theatre, Atlanta, projectionist, is confined to his home with a fractured leg.

•

C. R. WADE, Universal's Salt Lake City exchange manager, has returned from Los Angeles.

•

WILLIAM SEIB, Columbia's Salt Lake City manager, is a San Francisco visitor.

•

FORMAN ROGERS of the Rogers Circuit in Alabama, has been an Atlanta visitor.

•

HARRY RANDALL, Paramount New York branch manager, is ill.

•

JOSE ITURBI is in New York from the Coast.

•

WALLACE BEERY has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

MMPTA Sets Up Date Registration Bureau

The Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association here, has established a date registration bureau designed to prevent conflicting theatre association meetings and affairs. The Motion Picture Association has a similar service for distributor member companies.

Edward Kempner, 72

BUFFALO, Feb. 17.—Edward M. Kempner, 72, retired salesman for Paramount Pictures, died here recently after an illness lasting four years.

SGP to Release 1 to 3 Fortune Features

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—Screen Guild Productions will release from one to three features annually produced by Fortune Films, independent producing unit recently formed by Bert N. Stearn, SPG franchise holder in Pittsburgh, and Harry Handel, Pittsburgh exhibitor. Maurice Cohn is in charge of production.

'U' Gives to Runyon Fund

Universal has contributed $2,100 to the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund to aid cancer victims.

UA's Beno Slesin Was S.A. Aircrash Victim

Beno Slesin, United Artists manager for Colombia, was one of the 50 passengers who were killed aboard the Colombia Avianca airliner when it crashed last Saturday on a flight from Barranquilla to Bogata, according to word received at the UA home office here. Slesin left New York Thursday by the plane for Barranquilla for a brief stopover at the company's recently-opened exchange there before proceeding to his headquarters in Bogata. He is survived by his widow, Niuta Enta Slesin, a daughter and a son, a sister in New York and a brother in Germany.

In accordance with the wishes of Mrs. Slesin, arrangements are being made by UA for burial here.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
M-G-M's TECHNICOLOR HIT!
'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
IN PERSON
JACKIE GLEASON
Extra!
HARRISON & FISCHER

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN · SONNY TUFTS
in "EASY COME, EASY GO"
A Paramount Picture
in Person
THE INK SPOTS
ELLA FITZGERALD
TIP TAP & TOE
STUMP & STUMPY
Extra!
COOTIE WILLIAMS
His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances
ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND
BARBARA STANWYCK
BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER
B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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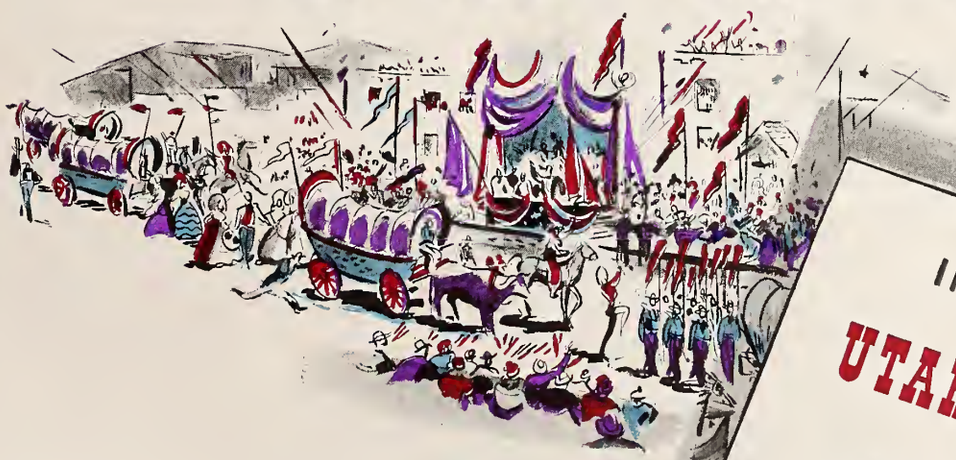
Opening to the BIGGEST FANFARE in the history of the West!



In conjunction with
THE
UTAH CENTENNIAL
★
The World Premiere
of
A PICTURE YOU WILL WANT TO SHOW—FOR GROSSES THAT WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU WANT!

In a year of high-budget, high-
BIG AS THE BIG
RA
with
PRESTON FOSTER · ARLEEN WHELAN · CHARLIE RUGGLES
Screenplay by Jack Moffitt, Graham Baker and Cecile Kramer · From the Novel
and Saturday Evening Post Serial by Luke Short · Music by Victor Young

grossing outdoor big ones

IS "RAMROD"!

ENTERPRISE

presents

JOEL McCREA
VERONICA LAKE
DONALD CRISP
DON DeFORE

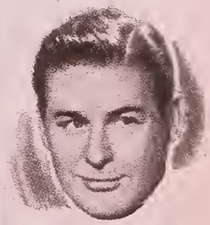
in

MROD

JOEL McCREA
The Ramrod!

VERONICA LAKE
The Deceiver!

DONALD CRISP
The Law!



DON DeFORE
The Killer?

PRESTON FOSTER
The Trouble!

ARLEEN WHELAN
The "Pal"!

CHARLIE RUGGLES
The Land Baron!

Directed by ANDRE de TOTH · A HARRY SHERMAN Production *ENTERPRISE Releases thru* UA

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 17

FIRST story purchase as well as the first new production to be announced by Dore Schary since assuming his post as executive vice-president in charge of production for RKO Radio is "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," by Eric Hodgins. A satirical account of the experiences of a New York advertising man and his wife when they decide to build a house in the country, it will serve as a starring vehicle for Cary Grant and Myrna Loy. . . . Lambert Hillyer has been signed to direct "Backfire," next Monogram Western, to star Johnny Mack Brown, with Raymond Hatton.

•

Michael Curtiz Productions has concluded arrangements to make a number of pictures in Technicolor. The first will be a film version of Henry Bellaman's novel, "Victoria Grandolet." . . . Samuel Bischoff has borrowed Sidney Lanfield, under contract to Paramount, to direct "The Pitfall," first of four productions which Bischoff will make for United Artists release. Dick Powell, who will star in the film, is also associated with Bischoff in the production of it.

•

Corinne Calvet, described as the current sensation of the French screen, has been signed to a contract by Paramount, and will report to the studio in March. Her latest picture, "Le Chateau de la Derniere Chance," is scheduled for release in Paris this month. Loretta Young and Dana Andrews have been engaged by RKO Radio to co-star in "Memory of Love." Harriet Parsons will produce under the executive supervision of Jack Gross; John Cromwell will direct.

•

Director Richard Whorf and actor John Hodiak, both under long-term contract to M-G-M, have been borrowed by Eagle-Lion for "Love from a Stranger," based on Frank Vosper's stage play of a decade ago. James Geller, formerly story editor at Warners, will make his producing debut with the film, and Sylvia Sidney will co-star with Hodiak. . . . Stephanie Bachelor has been assigned a leading part in Roy Rogers' next picture at Republic, "Springtime in the Sierras."

•

John Sutherland, radio and screen writer, is slated to produce "Too Many Winners," newest in PRC's "Michael Shayne" series of detective dramas. William Beaudine will direct. . . . Plans are underway at Enterprise for production in England of a film starring Barbara Stanwyck, although the actress' current commitments preclude the possibility that the project will start this year. . . . "Millionaires for a Day," a novel by Ernest Lehman and Geza Herczeg, has been purchased by Republic and assigned to Allan Dwan to produce and direct.

•

Irving Berlin's "Easter Parade" will serve as the basis of a star-studded M-G-M musical which Arthur Freed will produce, with Berlin working in association with him. The composer will write the complete score, as well as several new songs for the production numbers.

New Theatres

PORTLAND, ORE., Feb. 17.—Oregon Drive-In, a new firm formed by Ted R. and Willard Gamble and Albert and William Forman, is planning construction of four drive-in theatres—three in the Portland metropolitan area and one in Eugene, Ore.—with two more tentatively planned for undesignated Oregon cities.

Engineering and site work have already been started for the four, which will cost an estimated $500,000 to build.

New Hellman Drive-In Planned For Philadelphia Area

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Neil Hellman of Hellman Theatres has returned here from Philadelphia where he has purchased a 15-acre tract on which he will construct his fourth drive-in. The site is on U. S. Highway No. 1, and building is expected to be completed around July 1.

Plumlee and Dickson Open

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 17.—Ye Colony Theatre, new Oak Grove, Mo., theatre, has been opened by Frank Plumlee. M. J. Fuller has been named manager.

The new Hi-Way Theatre at Crystal City, Mo., has been opened by Tilden Dickson.

Wright Plans Drive-In, Horne Opens in Knoxville

MEMPHIS, Feb. 17.—B. Ward Wright is constructing a new drive-in theatre at Gadsden, Ala. It will accommodate 400 cars.

Sam Horne has opened his new Horne Theatre in Knoxville, Tenn., with Stuart Moore, formerly of Atlanta, as manager.

Plan $175,000 Jacksonville House

LAKELAND, Fla., Feb. 17.—B. B. Garner, head of Talgar Theatre Co., announces that as soon as the Civilian Production Administration gives its approval, he will build a $175,000 house, to be called the Surf, in Jacksonville.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—T. and D. Jr. Enterprises has purchased 16 lots in Lodi, Cal., for the construction of a new theatre and shopping center. Verne Taylor, T. and D's general manager, said the Lodi house will be built simultaneously with the company's planned $1,000,000 multiple amusement project in the vicinity of Santa Cruz.

Blumenfeld Theatres has resumed construction on its new theatre in Marin County, according to Al Goodwin, the circuit's manager. Building was halted in 1946 when Government approval was withheld.

Milton Samis of San Jose and J. McCabe of the Civic Auditorium Theatre, have filed application for construction of an 800-seat San Jose house.

A new 1,000-seat theatre will be built just north of Hollister, Cal., by the Hollister Golden State Theatre Co., according to M. Naify, vice-president of the circuit.

Plan First Springfield Drive-In To Handle 1,000 Cars

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb. 17.—Chakeres-Warner Theatres has acquired a suburban site near here for a 1,000-car drive-in, which will be the first of its kind in this area. Construction is scheduled to start as soon as building materials are available.

Robbins Sets New Negro House

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Feb. 17.—Property has been purchased here by Lincoln Theatres, owned by Leon Robbins, on which will be built a 650-seat colored house when Civilian Production Administration approval is issued.

New Wallace-Manning House

ALPHARETTA, Ga., Feb. 17.—Olen Wallace and S. Manning have opened their new 500-seat Alpha Theatre here.

Egyptian Industry Plans Prize Awards

By JACQUES PASCAL

CAIRO, Feb. 10.—The Egyptian motion picture industry will have its own "Academy Award"—in this case a "Grand Prize of the Egyptian Cinema."

The decision to award prizes—not yet official—is a sequel to the development of the industry in Egypt, now in its 20th year. Industry leaders believe the prizes will spur producers to greater efforts.

These efforts are already taking shape. Egypt's latest feature, due for a premiere soon, has some reels in color. This is "Maaruf, the Shoemaker." Moreover, one of the country's best producers has just announced plans to produce a bi-lingual historical feature in Arabic and English, dealing with the Roman domination of Egypt.

M-G-M has tried to exhibit 16mm. films in a small provincial town. The result was not encouraging.

'Song to Remember' Tops in Palestine

By IBRAHIM ZEIN

JAFFA, Feb. 10.—Among the many films shown in Palestine during the past year, Columbia's "A Song to Remember," which ran in Tel-Aviv for 12 weeks, stands out as the most successful. Other pictures liked by Palestine audiences during the year included "Music for Millions," "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes," "Song of Bernadette," "Love Letters," "Scarlet Street," "Spanish Main," "Spellbound," "Mr. Skeffington," the French films, "Carmen" and "Eternel Retour," and the Russian, "Zoia."

Jewish audiences in Palestine appreciate serious pictures with high artistic values and those featuring good music and sensitively portrayed romance, according to Albert Matalon of Matalon Bros., distributors for Columbia in Palestine and Transjordan. Matalon also said that French and Italian pictures are beginning to be very real competitors of U. S. product.

Short Subjects

"Fashion Means Business"

(*March of Time-20th-Fox*)

WITH particular emphasis on milady's dresses, this "March of Time" edition presents both a front and backstage view of what has become one of America's most flourishing industries. The importance of accessories in a woman's wardrobe are also stressed as the camera shows the creative processes that combine to make millions of American women, from urban centers to farms, the best-dressed in the world. Now concentrated principally in New York, the fashion industry still depends to a great degree on an interchange with French designers, according to the commentary. Running time, 17½ minutes.

"Jack Armstrong"

(*Columbia*)

Radio's "All-American Boy," Jack Armstrong, has been brought to the screen in Columbia's 15-episode serial. John Hart plays the title role as he wages an unrelenting struggle to vanquish a madman bent on world destruction. Others in the Sam Katzman production are Rosemary La Planche, Claire James and Joe Brown. Wallace Fox directed. Each chapter runs two reels.

"Radio, Take It Away!"

(*Paramount*)

Benny Baker mentors a radio quiz show in this satire on the ubiquitous programs that insist on loading its contestants with munificent gifts. It is paced fast as participants strive for yachts, life boats and underwater fountain pens. Running time, 11 minutes.

"Andy Panda and Woody Woodpecker"

(*Universal*)

Andy Panda is giving a Chopin piano concert when Woody Woodpecker appears onstage to make it a duet in this "Lantz Color Cartune." The reception is enthusiastic, but it ends on a forlorn note when a drunken horse sets fire to the place. Running time, eight minutes.

"Abusement Park"

(*Paramount*)

With a carnival as the setting, Popeye tangles once again with his perennial rival, Pluto, until the breathtaking climax when Popeye is rescued by his trusty can of spinach. Running time, eight minutes.

"Athletiquiz"

(*Pete Smith-M-G-M*)

Pete Smith turns his inquisitive mind on some brain-teasing questions on various sports, including swimming, wrestling, midget auto racing and golf. He also comes up with the answers. Running time, nine minutes.

"Flicker Flashbacks"

(*RKO Radio*)

The camera again turns back to scenes of another day to get laughs out of what was taken seriously then. The dramas presented are "A Plot Against the Duke" and "The Curse of Drink." Running time, 10 minutes.

Court Hits Momand Arbitration Charge

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—Distributor defendants in the A. B. Momand anti-trust suit did not conspire to use the industry arbitration machinery to force exhibitors to show films in any particular order, and the plaintiff failed to show that to meet any particular arbitration claims his companies entered into specific agreements new and damaging to them, Federal Judge D. J. Wyzanski declared in his findings of fact filed in U. S. District Court here following his reversal of a $966,000 jury verdict for Momand here.

"Because of estoppel of judgment, the statute of limitations and failure of proof of other comspiracies, the plaintiff in this trial was driven to relying for the recovery solely on the arbitration and credit conspiracies," Judge Wyzanski pointed out. The case was in litigation for five years in Oklahoma prior to being brought to Boston in 1937 after Momand established residence here.

The judge stated that the jury did not understand the case. He said they had been subject to "hour-long written reports and complicated financial explanations" which he had been able to understand only after hours of careful study in his chambers. The confusion in court had been obvious to all, he declared, adding that the jurors did not comply with the court's instructions, thus vitiating "the part of the verdict which deals with the amount of the principal recoverable."

A jury, said Judge Wyzanski, "could not reasonably find that the defendants had used arbitration claims with the intent of procuring from the plaintiff's companies their assent to fresh obligations prejudicial to those companies," nor that Momand's alleged losses were incurred "in a reasonable effort to avert claims of arbitration and threats thereof," nor that "the defendants' unlawful acts were the most substantial known cause of damages complained of."

Judge Wyzanski's entry of judgment for the eight defendants—Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Warners, Loew's, RKO Radio, Columbia, United Artists and Universal—brings a series of motions started on Jan. 20 at least to a temporary halt. Also, he has ruled against a plaintiffs' motion for interest, five per cent from the date of the assignment of the causes of action, on verdicts denied.

Name Shreiber Chief Of Cleveland Variety

CLEVELAND, Feb. 17. — Cleveland Variety Club has elected Harry Shreiber, RKO Theatres district manager, as chief barker, succeeding Edwin R. Bergman. Serving with Shreiber will be, first assistant, Harold Reives; second assistant, Al Kolitb; treasurer, I. J. Schmertz, and secretary, E. Stutz. A new board of directors was named. It consists of Nate Schultz, Nat Barach, Jerry Weschler, Gilbert Lefton, Oscar Kantor and John Urbansky, Sr. Urbansky was also named chairman of a committee to secure new quarters.

Initial action of the newly organized club will be a special premiere to be held at the Palace Theatre, proceeds to be turned in to the Variety Heart Fund.

"My Favorite Brunette"

(*Continued from page* 1)

to be something else. His something else is a private detective, but Alan Ladd, his office neighbor, keeps on refusing to hire him. Then Ladd is called to Chicago, leaving Hope in his office to be mistaken for what he surely is not, by Dorothy Lamour. She needs help to get her baron-uncle out of the toils of a group which is after a deposit of a couple of minerals with jaw-breaking names which spell uranium. The group is headed by Charles Dingle, assisted by knife-throwing, gun-shooting Peter Lorre of the baby face; John Hoyt is a disreputable doctor, Jack La Rue, who never says a word, and Lon Chaney, as a good-natured, half-witted giant who cracks walnuts in the pit of his elbow.

The adventures are varied and funny, all through them Hope alternating between his usual Casper Milquetoast character and a farcical, tough private "eye," a la Frank Gruber, Raymond Chandler and other members of the same school.

At the finish, of course, Hope is exonerated by one of his own snapshots —one showing up the phoney posing as Miss Lamour's uncle—and is joined with her for the clinch.

Unquestionably, the biggest single laugh in the whole show comes in the last three scenes: 1. When Willard Robertson, the warden, says he has forgotten to tell the guard the execution has been stayed. 2.—When the camera pans to the guard who turns out to be Crosby, sadly shaking his head in disappointment. 3.—When Hope, in a big closeup with Lamour, says, "He (meaning Crosby) will take any kind of a part." But audiences will have to strain hard to override the howls if they intend catching that final line of dialogue.

"My Favorite Brunette," nevertheless, is variable in content. It has its slow stretches which, in one manner of diagnosis, merely may be the quiet stretches between laughs. But it is a solid attraction and an excellent debut for Hope Enterprises, Inc., the company formed to make Hope's one outside picture each year for Paramount release.

Edmund Beloin and Jack Rose are responsible for the original screenplay, Elliott Nugent for the direction and Daniel Dare for production supervision.

Running time, 87 minutes. General audience classification, Release date, April 4, 1947.

RED KANN

"The Sin of Harold Diddlebock"

(*California Pictures-United Artists*)

A RARE, wonderful comedy treat, "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock" returns Harold Lloyd to the screen in a picture destined to have any theatre rocking with the guffaws of its audience. It is really hilariously funny, sparklingly original and, from the cashier's viewpoint, a product that just cannot miss in bringing in large grosses.

Preston Sturges, produced, directed and wrote the screenplay. In the writing and in the direction he has lavished ingenuity in the creation of all of the comic characters in the piece, in the development of every comedy situation, and, altogether, making the picture a laugh riot.

The beginning actually is a part of "The Freshman," which was made in 1923, and of course starred Lloyd. The old film looks mighty good. It shows Lloyd in a football game generally creating havoc on the gridiron and finally scoring the winning touchdown after surviving the rigors of the game as they were so amusingly burlesqued. The new picture begins here with an amazing job of makeup that has Lloyd in the dressing room looking remarkably like the Lloyd on the field.

The future appears bright as Raymond Walburn, advertising tycoon, brings Lloyd into his firm to start at the bottom and work up. The passage of time is uniquely expressed as Lloyd looks up from his bookkeeper's desk to a calendar portrait of the President, whose face changes to Calvin Coolidge right through to President Truman. Lloyd has the same job and is pensioned off by his employer.

From there on the film is like a three-ring circus. The inhibited Lloyd, brooding, is approached by a horse player, broke of course, and looking for an "angle." A little discussion and the two decide to have a drink, the first in his life for Lloyd. Bartender Edgar Kennedy whips up a ferocious creation that leaves Lloyd quite uninhibited.

He puts a thousand dollars on a horse, it wins, he paints the town, wakes up later to find he owns a circus, a horse and carriage and a very noisy wardrobe. He tries to sell the circus but fails, at first, that is. So he takes a tamed lion to Wall Street to help persuade the bankers in that area to sponsor a free circus for children. To be sure, there's commotion aplenty.

The lion breaks away, manages to get to a sky-high building ledge and Lloyd goes after him. This part of the film will have the average audience screaming, as both teeter on the ledge and then with Lloyd dangling on the lion's leash.

There is far too much to the picture to put it all down here—and it's all a riot. The picture introduces a newcomer, Frances Ramsden, who serves admirably as Lloyd's romantic choice. Jimmy Conlin, as "Wormy," the horse-player is always good for a laugh. Others in it, all good, include Franklin Pangborn, Margaret Hamilton, Arline Judge and Al Bridge.

The picture was made under the aegis of California Pictures.

Running time, 89 minutes. General audience classification. Release not set.

GENE ARNEEL

Rosenstein Promoted

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Joe Rosenstein has been promoted to service manager of Filmack's new "prevue" service. He served in a similar capacity in the Filmack special trailer department for nine years.

Drive for Nat Wolf

CLEVELAND, Feb. 17.—Warner theatres in the Ohio zone, totalling 25, will hold a five-week drive starting Feb. 23 in honor of Nat Wolf who is celebrating his 15th year as Warner Ohio zone manager.

U. S. Films Will Hold Lead: Cook

Hollywood pictures will continue to be more popular world-wide than British films and will continue to make better showings at box-offices in the opinion of Alton Cook, New York *World-Telegram* motion picture critic, who last night shared with British producer Isadore Goldsmith a 15-minute discussion of the subject, "Is Hollywood Losing Leadership to British Films," over the Columbia Broadcasting network. Cook spoke from New York, Goldsmith from Hollywood.

Goldsmith held that Hollywood's leadership appears to be unthreatened by the British because, primarily, the United States' buying power is 10 times greater than England's. He said Britain's limited home market and restricted foreign market are "great, insurmountable handicaps," and for that reason he considers real competition between British and American films in world markets "utterly impossible."

Cook said he believes the American industry's tendency to over-ballyhoo pictures that do not come up to public expectations is to some extent responsible for the feeling in some quarters that British films pose a threat. Frequently, he held, U. S. pictures that rate strong promotion do not get as much as do pictures that are less deserving.

Canadian Auditor Cites Grierson

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—Auditor-general Watson Sellar of the Dominion government has reported to the Canadian Parliament that John Grierson had been provided with trans-Atlantic airplane fare by the London office of the National Film Board almost three months after he had ceased to be employed by the Canadian board in Oct., 1945. The report said the $342 fare covered expense of a flight from the United Kingdom to Montreal. There was no immediate discussion of the item in the Commons here.

Presentation of the audit report comes at a time when the U. S. State Department at Washington has revealed that the United States Consul at Montreal has refused a quota visa to Grierson to enter the States to reside there. The official explanation is that Grierson is "not eligible under existing laws," but it was reported from Washington that American film interests had protested his admittance.

Silverstone, Goetz Due Here Today

Murray Silverstone, president of 20th Century-Fox International, and Ben Goetz, M-G-M managing director in London, are among motion picture executives who are slated to arrive in New York this afternoon aboard the *SS Queen Elizabeth*.

Also among the passengers are: E. E. Blake, chairman of Kodak, Ltd.; E. G. (Ted) Curtis, vice-president of Eastman Kodak, and Leslie Mitchell, publicity chief of Alexander Korda's London Films.

Fair Income at NY 1st-Runs; 'Pilgrim' Tops at $121,000

New York first-run gross business in the main is about fair. One big exception is the smash combination at the Roxy, "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," and a stage show featuring Peter Lorre, Gil Lamb and Evelyn Knight, with business for the first week, probably reaching $121,000 plenty high.

"Bedelia," which wound up its first week at the Victoria with $24,000, continues strong with $22,000 expected for the second week. At the Gotham, "San Quentin" also is doing nicely with $19,500 seen for the second week, after an initial week's take of $25,000.

"That Way with Women," along with Alan Hale, Martha Vickers and Claude Thornhill's orchestra on the stage, had a mild opening at the Strand. The first week's gross is estimated at $56,000. At the Paramount, "Easy Come, Easy Go," with Ella Fitzgerald and the Ink Spots on the stage, drew a fairly substantial $70,000 in a second week.

'Yearling' Still High

"The Yearling," with a stage presentation at the Music Hall, still is in the big money; the fourth week figures to bring in $120,000. The theatre incidentally is considering pulling the the picture after the fifth week, bringing in "Sea of Grass" for five weeks. Thus the way would be cleared for an Easter booking of "The Late George Apley."

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is probably the most amazing box-office performer in town. The film will provide the Astor with about $51,500 in its 13th week. Business has yet to fall below $50,000.

At the Globe, "It's a Wonderful Life" fell off a little more, with indications pointing to a $18,500 gross for the ninth week. "The Strange Woman" will go in Feb. 23. "Swell Guy" at the Winter Garden also is showing signs of weariness, with a $15,000 probable gross for the final six days. "I'll Be Yours" will follow on Friday.

"Sinbad the Sailor" is still drawing good money at the Palace where the fourth week's take looks like $35,000. The eighth week of "Humoresque" at the Hollywood is a fair one, estimated at $17,500; "Nora Prentiss" will bow in there on Thursday.

'California' Moderate

"California" is headed for a $27,000 fifth week, which is moderate, at the Rivoli; it continues. "Two Smart People" went over in undistinguished fashion in a first week at the Rialto, with an estimated $7,500; "Michigan Kid" runs next, starting Friday.

"Dead Reckoning" is good for about $24,000 in a fourth week at the Criterion. "Beginning or the End" will make its debut at the Capitol on Friday, succeeding "Lady in the Lake." The latter with Tex Beneke's orchestra on the stage will wind up its fourth and final week with about $56,000.

"Stairway to Heaven" is losing a little ground at the Park, with $13,000 apparent for the current week, the eighth. An Italian film, "Before Him All Rome Trembles," will open at the Republic on Friday.

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BALTIMORE

Only the new and important attractions are hitting worthwhile grosses. Holdovers apparently have worn-out their welcome, and regular program pictures are not drawing the crowds. Weather has improved. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

THE CHASE (UA)—CENTURY (3,000) (35c-44c-55c-60c and 65c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
LADIES' MAN (Para.)—KEITH'S (2,406) (35c-44c-55c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $12,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (35c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $12,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—STANLEY (3,280) (35c-44c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $17,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO-Radio)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (35c-44c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. With stage show. Gross: $14,200. (Average: $18,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (25c-35c-54c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,750. (Average: $6,000)
I MET A MURDERER (Film Classics)—LITTLE (328) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,600. (Average: $3,500)

CINCINNATI

Moderate weather following the recent cold wave stimulated theatre attendance. With some exceptions, grosses are running in the plus-average column. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 18-21:

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturady midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000)
RIDING THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL (Mono.) and DECOY (Mono.)—RKO FAMLY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,700. (Average: $1,600)
LADY CHASER (PRC) and SILVER RANGE (Mono.)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,100. (Average: $1,100)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE MAGIC BOW (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,500)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover after two weeks at the Palace. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $19,000. (Average, for 7 days: $15,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week, after two weeks at the Albee and a first moveover week at the Shubert. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,000)

$305,000 Gross for 'Duel' In Seven Weeks on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" remains Los Angeles' top roadshows as it grossed $44,200 in its seventh week at the Vogue and Fairfax Theatres. For the seven weeks at the Vogue, five at the Fairfax and two at the Egyptian, total box-office receipts are $304,973. The seventh week's gross was the highest since the opening week. Last week's gross was $44,000, according to spokesmen for Selznick.

TORONTO

Two Toronto houses offered new attractions for the week, the four other first-runs holding their programs for a second week because of satisfactory business in spite of continued rough weather and hard-to-navigate streets. Principal opposition came from pro hockey, for which there were long line-ups for tickets, and an ice-carnival roadshow. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19-20:

BEDELIA (British)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,200. (Average: $4,700)
NOTORIOUS (RKO Radio)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,300. (Average: $14,300)
THE STRANGE WOMAN (UA)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $13,300)
MARGIE (20th-Fox)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,600. (Average: $14,600)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,761) (28c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,400. (Average: $11,400)
BEDELIA (British)—VICTORIA (1,240) (18c-30c-48c) 6 days. 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,800)

ATLANTA

Business has been somewhat better this week than last. The weather has been good. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c) 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $13,000)
THE PLAINSMAN (Para. reissue)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c). Gross: $8,400. (Average: $8,200)
BLACK ANGEL (U-I)—ROXY (2,446) 55c-60c). Gross: $5,800. (Average: $5,600)
DEADLINE FOR MURDER (20th-Fox) and INNER CIRCLE (Rep.)—CAPITAL (2,446) (44c-50c). Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,200)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (55c-60c). Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

A return of mild weather helped grosses to a better-than-average level, with "The Jolson Story" and "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim" having good first weeks. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 20:

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,500)
DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th-Fox)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,400. (Average: $3,400)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on moveover from State. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $11,500)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,000)
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Col.)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,500)

BUFFALO

This has been a run-of-mine theatre week, with attendance balancing out to about average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 22:

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $19,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $18,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
SWELL GUY (U-I) and SINGIN' IN THE CORN (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE WESTERNER (Film Classics) and SPLENDOR (Film Classics)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,000)

OMAHA

Downtown theatres are doing about average business during weather that is mild for February. Estimated receipts for week ending Feb. 19-20:

STRANGE WOMAN (UA) and BELOW THE DEADLINE (Mono.)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, for "Strange Woman" on moveover from Paramount. Gross: $8,600. (Average: $8,600)
MR. ACE (UA)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (55c-80c) 7 days. Connie Boswell's Stage Revue on stage. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $19,900)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,700. (Average: $11,000)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $8,600)

B. & K. Closes Over Union-Matinee Tilt

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—A Balaban and Katz neighborhood theatre, the Admiral, located on the northwest side, is closed completely now because of a dispute between the circuit and the local projectionists' union over reduction in the number of projectionists employed due to the desire of B: and K. to discontinue matinees at the Admiral.

B. and K. recently announced that because of a lack of matinee business at the Admiral, it was decided to discontinue day-time showings. The union countered that if the circuit wanted to discontinue matinees, the projectionists dismissed as a result of the move would have to be absorbed elsewhere in the circuit. This the circuit has refused to do and, as a result, the Admiral is now completely dark.

B. and K. also recently abandoned matinees at the Drake. Here again the union requested that projectionists dismissed as a result of this move be absorbed in other circuit houses. B. and K. also refused to do so. At present, matinees have been abandoned at the Drake and projectionists there who work the night shift are refusing to accept their pay pending final settlement of the dispute.

Five RKO Tradeshows

RKO-Radio's "The Farmer's Daughter" will be trade-screened at the Normandie Theatre here this morning; "Trail Street" and "Beat the Band" will be shown on Wednesday, at the RKO-Radio New York exchange, and "Code of the West" and "The Devil Thumbsa Ride" will be shown on Thursdya, also at the exchange.

Production in Hollywood Rises 4, to 31

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—Production activity has increased somewhat, as 5L. films went to cutting rooms and reached shooting stages. The index rose to 31 from its previous level of 27. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shooting: "Major Denning's Trust Estate," "The Lady from Shanghai," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman); "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier).

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "Repeat Performance."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Song of the Thin Man," "The Hucksters."

Monogram

Started: "Louisiana," with Gov. James Davis, Margaret Lindsay; "The Gangster," with Belita, Barry Sullivan, Joan Lorring, Akim Tamiroff.

Shooting: "Tragic Symphony."

Paramount

Finished: "I Walk Alone" (Wallis).

Shooting: "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion).

PRC

Started: "Too Many Winners," with Hugh Beaumont, Trudy Marshall, Ralph Dunn.

Shooting: "Step-Child."

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Tycoon," "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie."

Republic

Started: "The Trespasser," with Dale Evans, Janet Martin, Warren Douglas, Adele Mara, Grant Withers; "Springtime in the Sierras," with Roy Rogers, Jane Frazee.

Selznick

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Moss Rose."

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Miracle on 34th Street."

United Artists

Started: "Atlantis," (Nero) with Maria Montez, Jean Pierre Aumont.

Shooting: "Body and Soul" (Enterprise); "Vendetta" (California).

Universal-International

Finished: "Ivy" (Interwood).

Started: "Secret Beyond the Door," (Diana) with Michael Redgrave, Joan Bennett, Natalie Schaefer, Rosa Rey.

Warners

Finished: "The Woman in White."

Started: "Wallflower," with Robert Hutton, Joyce Reynolds, Janis Paige, Edward Arnold, Barbara Brown.

Shooting: "The Unfaithful," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz).

Argentine Film to MGM

World rights to "Donde Mueren Las Palabras" (When Words Fail), Argentine-made film, have been acquired by M-G-M International Films, Arthur M. Loew, company president, announces. The film was directed by Fregonese for Associated Artists Studios of Buenos Aires.

Reviews

"Seven Were Saved"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood Feb. 17

FIVE days adrift in an open boat is, by its very nature, a monotonous experience. The sun beats down by day, the stars chill at night, the tedium, the privation and the lack of privacy get on the voyagers' nerves, and they in turn get on each other's nerves. Outside of that, nothing much happens: nothing much *can* happen, until the Air-Sea Rescue Force shows up or, conversely, the passengers fail to survive.

The victims of this tedious and uncomfortable trip include Richard Denning, Catherine Craig, Ann Doran, Byron Barr, John Eldredge, Richard Loo, Keith Richards, and George Tyne. Their predicament is precipitated by Loo, cast as a Japanese war prisoner, who contrives to outwit his captors and force the crash-landing of the plane in which he and the others are traveling to Manila. The group is rescued after five wearisome days by Russell Hayden and Don Castle.

Although Maxwell Shane and Julian Harmon, who wrote the story which Shane adapted to the screen, have tried their best to inject suspense by such incidents as a fight aboard the boat, an attack by a man-eating shark, and a sudden shower of rain, the picture remains in the trough of the waves throughout. William Pine and William Thomas produced, with the former also functioning as director.

Running time, 72 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

"The Shop at Sly Corner"

(*George King-British Lion*)

London

DEFTLY woven from a stage play of the same name which earned considerable dividends in its London presentation, producer-director George King's piece—first offering from Korda's new British-Lion setup—is aimed successfully at every orthodox box-office target. It has kindliness, ample if not over-abundant wit, skill in the telling, some winsome sentimentality, a plentiful supply of near-classical music (thereby attuning it heartily to the current mood of British filmgoers), a suitable ration of murder and other forms of sudden death.

In ordinary circumstances, it would have been one of those comfortable if not completely irresistible thrillers. But King cast the renowned Oscar Homolka as his leading player, thereby lifting his exhibit out of the run of the also-rans into the ranks of assured successes.

Homolka plays a middle-aged, expatriate, Frenchman—Descius Heiss—who has twin passions: driving shrewd bargains in the antiques in which he deals at his Sly Corner Shop and the care of his motherless, violin-playing daughter. To the world he presents the picture of a happy, kindly, more-than-a-little sentimental, father. But behind Heiss's polite facade there is an ugly secret. His comfortable wealth derives not so much from his ostensible trade as from that of a receiver of stolen property. In justification of his wrong-doing, the story's authors plead that his experiences in France's penal settlement at Devil's Island had given him a twisted outlook on life.

The Heiss secret is discovered by his assistant—a nasty, sniveling, rat of a youth—who blackmails his master. From there on, the patron knows, to an extent, what will occur. It does. Old man Heiss duly despatches the blackmailer by strangling; is pursued by the police; dies at his own hand in a London concert-hall while his daughter is treating the audience to the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. The old man utilizes the celebrated West African drug, curare, thereby giving the event the similitude of heart failure. Homolka's performance is a *tour de force*. The rest of the piece revolves continually around him. Kenneth Griffith infects the part of the blackmailer with a quite remarkable degree of detestability. Muriel Pavlov and Derek Farr play a couple of young lovers.

Running time, 91 minutes. British adult audience classification. Release date not set.

PETER BURNUP

French Production Exceeds Expectations

The number of top-bracket French films produced in 1946 surpassed expectations in spite of technical difficulties, according to the New York office of the Franco London Film Export Corp. In 1946, the company discloses, 102 films were produced in France, against 65 in 1945. In 1936, 116 were produced.

Wiley Padan Funeral

Funeral services for Wiley Padan, 46, associate art director for Loew's Theatres advertising department, here, were held yesterday morning from Lloyd's Funeral Home, Long Island. Padan, who died last Thursday in Flushing Hospital, is survived by his widow and a 12-year-old son. He was also creator of "It's True," a cartoon panel published in 165 newspapers.

$100,000 U. S. Film Equipment to Bolivar

Bolivar Films, Venezuela producer-distributor, has purchased over $100,000 worth of film and sound equipment from Reeves Sound Studios, Reeves International, Mitchell Co., and Bell and Howell, G. Villegas, president of Bolivar, disclosed here yesterday. Included in the equipment are units for reducing 35mm. film to 16mm., making possible, according to Villegas, the exhibition of 16mm. films in Venezuela for the first time.

Burnt F-P House Reopens

TORONTO, Feb. 17.—The Algoma Theatre, which had a fire two months ago, has been reopened by Famous Players following rebuilding of the house. Al Hartshorn has been retained as manager.

Reds an Influence On Austrian Films

By H. ZU LOEWENSTEIN

VIENNA, Feb. 12 (By Airmail)—Russian influence on new Austrian film production is marked, largely due to the fact that the largest and best equipped studios, Rosenhuegel, home of the new Russian-licensed company, Wien-Film, are under the supervision of L. B. Lunin of Moscow, who is working in close collaboration with Sovexport Film, central Soviet agency for the exportation of Russian features.

He is dubbing German pictures in Russian and Rusian pictures in German. Lunin is also associated with the Kollektiv company, producing a monthly film journal. The Russian-sponsored "Week of the Soviet Film" has been showing its products all over Vienna and in many provincial towns. Collaboration between the Austrian and German industries has started anew.

Of American product, "The Corn Is Green" has met with universal approval, as well as "Miss Kitty." Many French pictures are shown in this city, while the recently founded Society of Austrian Motion Picture Friends is showing some of the outstanding older American pictures in the city.

Building Program Is On in Uruguay

By PAUL BODO

MONTEVIDEO, Feb. 12 (By Airmail).—A major building program is under way here. A new company, Compania Cinematografica Central, reports it will build six theatres in this city, beginning with a 2,800-seat house and a 1,200-seat newsreel theatre. The site for the houses has been purchased at a record price of $418,000.

Bernardo Glucksmann is carrying out his plan, disclosed some months ago, for the construction of the Cine Roosevelt, with a capacity of 2,300, as well as two more theatres with 1,800 and 1,300 seats in the capital and two bigger ones in the provinces. However, rapid realization of these and other projects is hampered by the scarcity of some building materials, rising wages and difficulty in purchasing imported materials.

Projectors, electrical and air conditioning equipment, screens and carpeting are purchased always from abroad, mostly from the U. S.

Lately, many exhibitors in the important provincial towns have modernized and rebuilt their theatres.

Century Makes Four New Staff Changes

Four staff changes have been made by J. R. Springer, general manager of the Century Circuit, as follows:

J. McGovern, relief manager, is now assistant manager at the Community Theatre; H. Cherney, assistant manager of the Community, has been transferred to the Town Theatre in the same capacity; M. Spector, assistant of the Town, has been transferred to the Bliss; G. McDonald, assistant of the Bliss, has been transferred to the 43rd Street Theatre.

Industry Bars

(*Continued from page* 1)

Francis Harmon, vice-president, makes an effort to select films which will be understood and appreciated by the poverty stricken population in Europe and elsewhere. The voluntary export censorship is very much like the machinery of the Production Code Administration. When a film is said to be undesirable, the company in question is informed and asked to substitute another feature for the 13-nation market where the Export Association operates.

Pictures in the unobjectionable for export class would include "The Green Years," and "Abraham Lincoln in Illinois."

M. P. E. A. has initiated this program to convince members of the House and Senate foreign relations committees that internal voluntary regulation is better than government enforcement to see that the right films go to political hotbeds of Europe.

Government should not engage in the production of motion pictures, Johnston said.

"We feel that private industry should do these things. We do not want the government running newspapers or the radio. Neither do we want government to enter the field of film production," Johnston stated. He said M. P. A., however, does not object to a government unit to handle liaison with the industry.

Johnston disclosed that Frank McCarthy, new M. P. A. representative in Paris, will represent the industry at the forthcoming trade conference at Geneva, April 8, and that M. P. A. has retained Allen Dulles and John F. Dulles, well-known international experts, to be on hand at the Geneva reciprocal trade meeting.

Johnston said he plans to be in Europe when the conference is in progress and will go to Geneva if his presence is required.

Asked about the alleged "give-away showings of pictures on trains, Johnston replied that the more people who see films the more who will become regular patrons. He pointed out that despite objections raised by Abram F. Myers, Allied States counsel, there should be no more objection to train shows than to free theatres on trans-Atlantic liners.

Regarding the proposed industry-wide forum, Johnston asserted that it would be better to wait until final action has been taken by the Supreme Court before acting. He said he still has not received an official bid to participate in the forthcoming exhibitor conference to be held in New York.

Johnston declined to discuss the New York Federal court decree. "I will not have anything to say until final action is taken by the Supreme Court," he stated.

Commenting on quota restrictions on American pictures which are being planned in Britain, Johnston said that it will be a major effort of the Association to keep present low quota restrictions in force. He said the British will reap 10 times more business in America this year compared to 1946. He estimated the net profit of British films in America at $10,000,000 for 1947.

British films grossed approximately $3,700,000 in this country last year, netting about $1,300,000.

Reviews

"Pursued"

(*Warner Brothers*)

Hollywood, Feb. 17

WITH Teresa Wright, Robert Mitchum, Judith Anderson, Dean Jagger and Alan Hale as names to bill, Milton Sperling's United States Pictures production of an original (in both meanings) screenplay by Niven Busch appears assured of an impressive box-office career. Superficially a Western, laid in the New Mexico of 1890-1900, it is in essence a suspense story with psychological overtones and predicated on the revenge motive, which in turn is predicated—although this is not divulged until the end—on an illicit love affair. Although some of the foreground incidents are of familiar melodramatic pattern, most of them are not, and as directed by Raoul Walsh all of them register strongly. It is an unusual attraction, essentially adult as to subject matter and treatment, and generates powerful impact.

The story opens with Mitchum hiding out in an abandoned home from unnamed pursuers intent upon killing him. Miss Wright, who turns out to be his wife, urges him to flee the country, but he says he knows this is useless, and tells her why he believes so. In flashback, then, is related the story of his life, and hers, from early childhood, when her mother took him into her family, to live as her and her brother's brother. Throughout his boyhood, and afterward, he has been the target of attempts upon his life, for reasons unknown to him. It is made known to the audience, however, that Dean Jagger, who holds various official offices in the community, is responsible for the events which Mitchum cannot comprehend. In one episode Mitchum kills his foster-brother in self defense. In another he kills a young man in love with Miss Wright, also in self defense. For these reasons, Miss Wright marries Mitchum, intending to kill him on their wedding night, at which time she decides not to. Later that night, Jagger and a band of men surround the house, gunning for Mitchum, who escapes to the house where the picture opens. When they arrive and close in on him, he gives himself up to them, but as they are about to lynch him Judith Anderson, the mother who has reared Mitchum as a son, arrives and kills Jagger, clearing up the future for Mitchum and his wife. In this last and fast sequence it is also made clear that Jagger's determination to bring about Mitchum's death has root in the fact that Miss Anderson had been unfaithful to her husband, his brother, who got killed in a shooting fray arising out of that deception, for which reason Jagger had vowed to eliminate all of his brother's betrayer's issue. (It is at least that complicated, but doesn't seem so much so while the picture is going on.)

Others in the cast are: John Rodney, Harry Carey, Jr., Clifton Young, Ernest Severn, Charles Bates, Peggy Miller, Norman Jolley, Lane Chandler, Elmer Ellingwood, Jack Montgomery and Ian MacDonald.

Running time 101 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Big Town"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 17

PHILLIP REED and Hillary Brooks are the top names in the cast of a fair-to-middling melodrama, first of a projected series. Reed plays the fast-talking, flip city editor familiar to audiences of the airshow, "Big Town," and Miss Brooke portrays "Lorelei," the idealistic blonde reporter.

The motives of these two are opposed from the start, for "Lorelei" envisions the power of the press as a giant battling for the right, whereas the aspirations of her editor are no higher than yellow journalism at its lowest. Only when the tabloid tactics of his paper bring about the suicide of a man wrongly charged with murder does he realize the error of his ways. After confessing his moral guilt, he resigns his post. The paper's publisher, fortunately, does a complete about-face on his previous editorial policy, and Reed is reinstated, with orders to commence crusading for the right.

Robert Lowery, Byron Barr, Veda Ann Borg, Nana Bryant and Charles Arnt complete the cast. William Pine and William Thomas produced, with the latter directing. The screenplay is credited to Geoffrey Homes and Maxwell Shane.

Running time, 60 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

GB-Kalee Designs All-Closed Projector

LONDON, Feb. 17.—G. B-Kalee, J. Arthur Rank's equipment organization, has a new projector in which sound head, arc lamp and spool boxes are completely encased.

Called the "21," it has been placed in operation in only one theatre thus far, but it is anticipated that 60 will be available this year. Under the government's export trade ordinance, however, the greater proportion must be sent abroad.

Crossin Is Promoted

J. F. Crossin, director of sales for Olympic Radio and Television, Inc., has been named a vice-president of the company.

Marshall, Clayton

(*Continued from page* 1)

to prevent imposition of new British quota restrictions on American pictures, now being considered by the Board of Trade in London.

Secretary of State Marshall also has indicated he will suport Johnston's program for a free worldwide market for American films.

Clayton is watching the French situation also. A violation of the U. S. treaty drafted in the form of a loan to France would result if restrictions are placed on American films there.

Variety to Honor Ezell

DALLAS, Feb. 17.—Claude C. Ezell, founder of the Texas Variety Club, will be honored at a dinner March 3.

RKO Ending Pools

(*Continued from page* 1)

The pools with other affiliated circuits were in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Rochester and Cleveland.

Biggest remaining problem for RKO Theatres created by the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit is that of reducing its partnership holdings as low as five per cent per house or increasing them to 95 per cent, Kingsberg said. No decision has been reached as to what extent the company may seek to buy up additional interests or dispose of existing interests, he added, commenting: "Our partners all are happy and would like to continue."

The court has allowed exhibitor defendants in the suit until Dec. 31, 1948, to comply with the decree's partial-divestiture provision but has ordered each of them to submit by July 1 of this year a statement outlining the extent of compliance to date and the manner of complete compliance intended. Although RKO is one of the companies reported to be undecided on carrying the New York verdict to the Supreme Court, at least one theatre-owning defendant, Paramount, is expected to appeal from the divestiture clause.

RKO Theatres, Kingsberg said, has an interest of approximately 50 per cent in 17 houses throughout the country and has a minority interest in several hundred others, including 17 per cent of Metropolitan Playhouses, which operates approximately 100 theatres in the New York area, and 17 per cent of the Butterfield Circuit, which has 121 houses throughout Michigan.

RKO's theatre business, he reports, still is running ahead of last year in dollar volume, although the volume of attendance may be off by two or three per cent.

While in Hollywood, Kingsberg found the RKO Radio studio "going full blast," although some others were not quite so active. He found the company planning to ship seven pictures for distribution within the next few months.

Berge

(*Continued from page* 1)

Washington to enter private law practice in New York.

Berge said today that the appeal papers of all parties in the New York suit will have been filed before his resignation becomes effective and arguments for use in connection with the hearing of the Supreme Court appeals may be well advanced before May 1.

Attorney General Tom Clark said Berge's resignation will have no effect on the industry anti-trust suit and that Robert L. Wright, special assistant, will continue in charge of the case. Berge joined the anti-trust division in 1930 and became its head in 1937, succeeding Thurman W. Arnold, now counsel for American Theatres Association.

'Depinet Drive' Talks Set for Southwest

Ben Y. Cammack, RKO Radio Southwestern district manager, will join Len S. Gruenberg, 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive" captain, in Memphis on Thursday to participate in drive meetings there, as well as in Oklahoma City and Dallas.

20th Not to Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

York Federal Court decision, Tom J. Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, who presided at the sessions, declared, "Indications are that 20th-Fox will not file an appeal."

The company has already been entertaining competitive bidding under the decree's provision that the defendants are barred from arbitrarily refusing to license to an exhibitor on a stipulated run and then licensing to a competing exhibitor. John F. Caskey, counsel, also guided the day's discussion from the podium.

Spyros P. Skouras, 20th-Fox president, who was present at yesterday's session, will be one of the principal speakers today in a review of the company's 20 features for this year.

Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising and publicity, will follow him today with an outline of the advertising, publicity, radio and exploitation campaigns set for this season's product. Details of the publicity plans for "Forever Amber" and "Captain from Castile" will highlight his talk. Other speakers will include Herman Wobber, Western divisional sales manager, who will speak on special handling to be accorded the reissue of Irving Berlin's "Alexander Ragtime Band," and William J. Kupper, general sales manager, who will address the assemblage on additional sales policies.

Although the conference will close tomorrow, Andrew W. Smith, Jr., Harry Ballance and Wobber, divisional sales managers, will remain in New York for the balance of the week for home office meetings with Skouras and other executives.

Among home office representatives present at the conference are: W. C. Michel, executive vice-president; Donald A. Henderson, treasurer; W. J. Eadie, assistant treasurer and comptroller; Otto E. Koegel, general counsel. Also, Edmund Reek, Paul Terry, Richard de Rochemont, William Weiss, Lem Jones, Jack Bloom, Edwin H. Collins, Martin Moskowitz, Peter Levathes, W. J. Kupper, Jr., Sam Fishman and Rodney Bush.

Also: Seymour Florin, Murray Chikofsky, Frank Carroll, Morris Caplan, Roger Ferri, Frank Bryan, Harry Mersay, G. A. Roberts, Eugene McEvoy, Dave Ornstein, Ted Shaw, R. Stephenson, Moe Grassgreen, Seymour Cohen, I. Lincer, Clarence A. Hill and Winton Burrhus.

District managers attending are: C. E. Peppiatt, E. X. Callahan, Paul S. Wilson, Phil Longdon, Jack H. Lorentz, J. J. Grady, M. A. Levy, Ward E. Scott, Charles L. Walker, Bryan D. Stoner, Sydney Samson and Raymond E. Moon.

Branch managers present are: Joseph B. Rosen, Sam Gross, Weldon Waters, C. G. Norris, James M. Connolly, William Graham, Benjamin A. Simon, Fred R. Dodson, J. E. Holston, Mark Sheridan, H. L. Beecroft, Tom W. Young, Grady L. James, Tom R. Gilliam, Joseph J. Lee, Joseph R. Neger, Leavitt J. Bugie, I. J. Schmertz, George T. Landis, Gordon F. Halloran, Jack S. Cohan, Joseph E. Scott, George W. Fuller.

Also: Benjamin B. Reingold, V. J. Dugan, Clyde Blasius, Clyde W. Eckhardt, Charles F. Powers, Joseph M. Podoloff, Frank Drew, Moe Kurtz, M. W. Doris, M. Sudmin, Alex Harrison, M. Nuzzola, Joe Burke, A. Blumstein, J. Fernicola and N. Harris.

Reviews

"Dangerous Venture"

(*Hopalong Cassidy Productions-United Artists*)

AS guardian angels for an archaeology expedition seeking Indian relics which have great monetary value, William Boyd as "Hoppy" and his two pals, Andy Clyde and Rand Brooks find themselves with plenty of work on their hands in "Dangerous Venture" when their path also crosses that of cattle rustlers. Yet, while there is potentially good material for excitement and action, this picture, number three in the new "Hopalong Cassidy" series, lags noticeably behind its predecessors. Irregular and halting in its pace, it is an average Western hampered by too much verbiage and a deficiency in action.

Headed by Betty Alexander and Douglas Evans, the expedition runs into trouble when rustlers, masquerading as Indians, are confronted with the antagonism of a small Indian tribe, a peaceful people who are fast becoming extinct. Evans, proving himself more interested in the monetary value of the relics rather than in science, places himself in league with the rustlers, led by Harry Cording and Francis McDonald. But Boyd and his pals discover the trickery, and are instrumental in bringing justice and fair play to the Indians, vindicating the expedition of suspicions that its purpose is to loot the Indian burial grounds. Fritz Lieber appears as chief of the Indian tribe. Lewis J. Rachmil produced and George Archainbaud directed, from a screenplay by Doris Schroeder.

Running time, 59 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

"Renegade Girl"

(*Screen Guild Prod.*)

THE Missouri wilds during the closing days of the Civil War sets the backdrop of this aptly-titled outdoor drama which concerns itself principally with a bitter feud between a predatory Indian leader and an attractive lady outlaw who heads a band of Southern guerrillas. Leaning heavily on dialogue and romance (the lady falls in love with a Union Army officer), "Renegade Girl" has been aimed apparently at a wider audience than that for which the usual run of "horse operas" are intended. Ann Savage, appearing somewhat too glamorous and modern-looking in the role, plays the grim and brooding renegade miss with moderate conviction; Alan Curtis is reasonably well cast as the Union captain whose love for the girl establishes sufficient emotional interest to stir the womenfolk, and Edward Brophy, Russell Wade, Jack Holt, Claudia Drake, Chief Thundercloud and others are on hand to contribute to the hard riding, gun-fighting and other phases of the proceedings.

When an outlaw Indian kills Miss Savage's entire family she swears revenge. Her purpose is not infrequently interrupted by run-ins with the Union Army of occupation, and her love for the captain almost saves her from carrying out her intention—but not quite. In the end she slays the Indian during one of his raids on a village, but is herself killed by the Indian and dies in the arms of the captain whose troupe arrives too late to save her. The film's presentation is credited to Robert L. Lippert; William Blake produced and directed.

Running time, 65 minutes. General audience classification.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

George Schaefer

(*Continued from page* 1)

assuming the post of Enterprise vice-president in charge of distribution.

"In view of rising costs and new selling methods, it is now vitally necessary to get every possible box-office dollar," Schaefer said, declaring that Charles Einfeld, Enterprise president, and David Loew, chairman of the board, are the "two most sales-conscious men in Hollywood."

Expressing confidence in the company's future, and declaring Enterprise product on a par with the majors' best in quality, Schaefer said that "the flexibility of our organization offers artists an opportunity to build for the future by establishing equities in pictures they make for us. The fact that stars have a financial interest in productions improves the morale in every phase, from shooting to selling. This is a young, ambitious, aggressive organization. Enterprise is going places, and I'm going with it," he added.

Schaefer will fly to Salt Lake City on Friday for the "Ramrod" premiere going on to El Paso, Texas, for a UA western sales meeting on the 27th.

UK Said to Approve WB's Foreign Plans

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—Widespread encouragement of Warner Brothers' plans for international expansion in production and distribution of pictures was reported by Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production, in a radio interview here, following his return from more than two months abroad.

Not only is the average theatre-goer in England and on the Continent without prejudice against American films and players. Warner told Knox Manning over KFWB, but Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the British Board of Trade, expressed his best wishes for full success of WB's arrangement with Associated British Pictures for production in England.

Warning that the American industry must be everlastingly vigilant, Warner declared that "We must avoid any self-satisfied notion that we can keep on doing the same thing without imagination and extra effort. The British have already proved that they can make pictures good enough to prosper in a free American market. We should welcome that sort of artistic rivalry."

Strike By-Passes Universal Building

Work on Universal's new home office Park Avenue building here proceeded without interruption yesterday while a strike of 1,000 members of Metalic Workers Union, Local No. 46, AFL, crippled construction throughout the city and made thousands idle.

A spokesman for Universal explained that metal lathing for the floors already has been installed and that ceiling laths are not scheduled to be hung for several months.

Cohn Without

(*Continued from page* 1)

company of his services for a number of years. There have been negotiations during the past year and our directors are anxious to find a contract basis mutually acceptable."

The letter to stockholders relates that Jack Cohn, also, has been without an employment contract with the company since July 1, 1945. The new contract for which stockholders' approval is sought, is for seven years from last Jan. 1 at a salary of $2,500 weekly and expense allowance of $300 weekly, compared with $2,000 weekly and $200 expense allowance formerly.

The new contract with Montague, also subject to stockholders' approval, is for seven years from June 10, 1946, at a weekly salary of $2,500, compared with $1,500 weekly formerly. His proposed option is for 10,000 shares of common at $32 per share.

The option to Kahane, vice-president and studio executive, is for 10,000 shares, exercisable between April 14, 1949, and Oct. 14, 1954, at $27.50 per share. Kahane's employment contract runs to Dec. 31, 1951, at $2,000 weekly.

The option to Roth, lawyer and former California Superior Court judge, is for 5,000 shares of common, exercisable from July 1, 1949, to Dec. 31, 1956, at $27.50 per share. Roth is employed as an executive in studio operation and management at $1,500 weekly for the next seven years.

The option to Briskin is for 3,500 shares of common, exercisable at $27.50 per share from April 14, 1949, to Oct. 14, 1954. His present contract expires Dec. 31, 1951, and provides for a salary of $1,500 weekly as a producer. The option to Rackett is for 1,000 shares at $27.50, exercisable from July 1, 1950, to Dec. 31, 1954. Rackett will supervise the studio's general laboratory at a salary of $1,200 weekly on a contract extending from Jan. 2, 1947, to Dec. 31, 1951.

Obscene Ads

(*Continued from page* 1)

objection or debate. Assemblyman Kaplan, American Labor Party, moved to strike out the enacting clause, but he was persuaded to withdraw his objection.

The Wilson-Condon act follows the Regents' suggestion in rejecting New York License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding's appeal to revoke the permit of "The Outlaw," on the ground of alleged salacious advertising.

20 REASONS WHY THE BIGGEST FIGURE IN THE INDUSTRY . .

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

13 RUE MADELEINE

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM
in Technicolor!

BOOMERANG!

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON

THE LATE GEORGE APLEY

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA
In Technicolor!

THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR

THE HOMESTRETCH
in Technicolor!

MOSS ROSE

MIRACLE ON 34th STREET

BOB, SON OF BATTLE
In Technicolor!

KISS OF DEATH

NIGHTMARE ALLEY

I WONDER WHO'S KISSING HER NOW
In Technicolor!

CALL NORTHSIDE 777

MOTHER WORE TIGHTS
In Technicolor!

THE FOXES OF HARROW

FOREVER AMBER
In Technicolor!

CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE
In Technicolor!

TODAY MORE THAN EVER IS 20th CENTURY-FOX

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 34 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Names . . . *in Today's News*

MAURICE SILVERSTONE, president of 20th Century-Fox International Corp., returned to New York yesterday from London aboard the *S. S. Queen Elizabeth*, with word that, under the severe coal and power crisis which has afflicted England, motion picture houses are experiencing a great decline in business. He added that newsreel companies, including "Movietone," which are produced in Britain, have discovered that the "only way to maintain operations" has been by buying their own generators.

Others who also arrived are: Ben Goetz, M-G-M managing director in London; Morris Goodman, former Motion Picture Export Association head in Berlin, who, accompanied by his wife, returned after a two-year stay abroad; E. G. (Ted) Curtis, vice-president of Eastman Kodak; E. E. Blake, chairman of Kodak, Ltd. and Leslie Mitchell, Sir Alexander Korda's publicity chief in England.

Silverstone, who also visited France during his trip, revealed that Marcel Hellman had signed up with 20th-Fox again for production of at least two more pictures. He also disclosed that the company, whose Wembley Studio was battered during the war, had applied for permission to embark on a reconstruction program.

Pine, Balaban, Hollander Hosts to B. and K. 'Alumni'

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—With William Pine, Paramount producer, as chairman, a score of former Balaban and Katz employees now in Hollywood will hold an "alumni dinner" at the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills on March 25.

John Balaban, B. and K. and Great States circuit head, who with his wife is now at his LaQuinta Hotel in California, will probably be one of

(*Continued on page* 8)

Obscene Ad Bill Goes to Gov. Dewey

ALBANY, Feb. 18.—The Wilson-Condon bill, providing for revocation of film licenses by the state censor division because of indecent or immoral advertising was passed by the state senate today and now goes to Governor Dewey for his signature or veto.

The senate vote on the bill was 39 to one; Senator MacNeill Mitchell,

(*Continued on page* 8)

Montague, Scully, Lazarus Testimony In Columbia Appeal

Testimony by A. Montague, Columbia vice-president and general sales manager; William A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, and Paul N. Lazarus, Sr., manager of the United Artists contract department, has been singled out by Louis Frohlich, Columbia counsel, for inclusion in parts of the printed record of the industry anti-trust suit on which he will base arguments at the hearing of his company's appeal before the U. S. Supreme Court from the New York Federal Court decree.

In the testimony referred to by Columbia's *praecipe*, now on file at the Federal District Court here and also with the Department of Justice in Washington, the Columbia and Universal executives described in detail their companies' policies of selling large blocks of pictures in advance, while the UA spokesman elaborated on his company's practice of

(*Continued on page* 8)

Para. Theatre Men Air Decree Effect

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Feb. 18.—Discussions of the application of the New York Federal court decree in the industry anti-trust suit to Paramount theatre operations were begun here today at the Ponce de Leon Hotel by home office executives and the company's theatre associates.

Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, said that no final decisions

(*Continued on page* 8)

40 Trade Showings During February

An unusually large number of new films are being trade-screened by distributors during February, the total for the month already having reached 40. Many are exhibitor screenings, others are for the press.

Schedules received to date give Paramount and United Artists seven each, to top the list, M-G-M will have six and RKO Radio, five. Other companies have three or less on their schedules.

To Study Cut In U. S. Tax

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation of Congress plans to study the possible future reduction of the wartime 20 per cent admission tax. However, it is said that it is unlikely that any recommendation for a reduction will be forthcoming until 1948.

The Joint Congressional Conference Committee, presently studying the wartime excise tax continuation measure, which has been passed by the House and Senate, will not deal with the admission tax rate because it is not involved in the measure now as an amendment. The Committee is free to discuss only those amendments to the legislation which are now before it.

The Joint Taxation Committee is composed of a staff of researchers and ranking members of the House and Senate Finance and Ways and Means committees.

"The Farmer's Daughter"

(RKO Radio)

Sure-fire Comedy-Romance

WERE this reviewer an exhibitor he'd let nothing deter him—not even the complexities of modern booking—from getting this keen piece of merchandise into his theatre pronto. The tradeshow audience (the ladies were vastly in the majority, however) received this laugh-studded, superbly-acted, sure-fire comedy-romance precisely

(*Continued on page* 7)

"The Beginning Or the End"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

Exciting, Engrossing

GOES the foreword: "This is basically a true story. However, for dramatic license and security purposes, some rearrangement of chronology and fictionization was necessary." It was to be expected that no concoction of dramatic entertainment based on the atom bomb would permit its producers to divulge the authentic

(*Continued on page* 7)

Skouras Asks Diligent Sales Under Decree

Calls for Meeting Spirit And Letter of Ruling

Calling upon all members of 20th Century-Fox's distribution department to cooperate "with diligence and consideration" in executing the company's policy of "conforming to the spirit as well as the letter" of the New York Federal Court decree, Spyros P. Skouras, president, accentuated yesterday the importance of securing extended playing time in all theatres in order to realize box-office returns commensurate with

Spyros P. Skouras

(*Continued on page* 8)

Decree Effect Will Vary, Says Krim

While the New York Federal Court's equity decision, if sustained, would interpret the anti-trust laws as applicable to the industry, the mechanics of compliance, such as competitive bidding as dictated by the decree apply only to the eight distributor defendants in the case, in the

(*Continued on page* 8)

UA Asks Interim Contract Changes

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—A directive from all United Artists producers authorizing the distributing company to disregard any provisions in their releasing contracts which, if observed,

(*Continued on page* 8)

In This Issue

Key city grosses are given on page 6.

New Device to Stop Box-Office Leaks

The perennial problem of receipt "leakages" between box-office and ticket door has been solved through the development of a new control device, said to have received the enthusiastic approval of many home office theatre executives, according to Henry Randall, Paramount's New York branch manager, who made the invention and will place it on display at the Gotham Theatre here beginning this morning.

Known as the Stud Rod Control, the device consists principally of a locked box containing a rod which protrudes upward through an opening just large enough to admit the stubs of tickets which are provided with holes for stringing them upon the rod. This box, designed to replace the familiar receptacle attended by the doorman, will spare him from any temptation to collect tickets and return them to the cashier for resale, inasmuch as the serial numbers will have to appear on the rod in order, Randall explains.

For circuit operations, in which it might be desired to bring the theatre manager under control also, a series of rods, as many as nine, is provided —thus enabling the tickets to be accumulated day after day until they can be checked by a visiting circuit executive.

Each rod is enclosed inside a hollow wire, which can be slipped off, bringing the tickets along out with it, when the box is unlocked. Each wire, two feet long, will resemble a Hawaiian lei when removed, according to the inventor.

Randall already has the device in Control Corp., which he has formed in production, through the Stub Rod association with I. Dashin. Perfection of the equipment required a year and a half of work.

Stuber and Folsom Named EK Directors

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Adolph Stuber, a vice-president of Eastman Kodak Co., and Marion B. Folsom, company treasurer, have been elected to the board of directors. Stuber succeeds Herman C. Sievers, former vice-chairman of the board, while Folsom succeeds Frank W. Lovejoy, former board chairman.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Common stock of Eastman Kodak was placed on a $7 annual dividend basis today when directors of the company increased the quarterly dividend to $1.75, payable April 1 to stockholders of record on March 5. The regular $1.50 dividend on the six per cent preferred was also declared. In 1946 the company declared four quarterly dividends of $1.50 each with an extra $1 in the final quarter.

RKO Dividend Declared

The RKO board yesterday declared a quarterly dividend of 30 cents per share of common stock, payable April 1 to holders of record at the close of business on March 15.

Personal Mention

GUS EYSSELL, president and managing director of the Radio City Music Hall, has returned to New York from Kansas City.

•

SIMON B. SCHIFFRIN, formerly with Loew's International, has been decorated by the French Government for distinguished services as head of the motion picture division of the French Ministry of Information.

•

WILLIAM M. LEVY, United Artists division manager for Europe and the Near East, arrived in New York yesterday following a three-and-a-half months' survey of his territory.

•

JOCK LAWRENCE, J. Arthur Rank vice-president in charge of public relations in the U. S., will sail today on the *Queen Elizabeth* for a three-week London conference with Rank officials.

•

CAROL REED, British director, will be guest of honor at a reception at the Hampshire House here today to be tendered by Universal-International.

•

ED. J. FONTAINE, Selznick Releasing Organization's middle-Atlantic zone manager, is in New York from Washington.

•

ARTHUR SHREFFLER, manager of the Castamba, Shelby, O., has been named chairman of the local Red Cross fund raising committee.

•

MRS. MINNETTE GOLDSTEIN, Century Theatres field representative, has returned to New York from a Bermuda vacation.

•

KENNETH MACKENNA, M-G-M studio executive, has arrived in New York from the Coast, accompanied by his actress wife, MARY PHILLIPS.

•

FRANK MCCARTHY, Motion Picture Association executive, is flying here from Hollywood, arriving tomorrow following stopovers in the South.

•

CHARLES E. KESSNICH, M-G-M district manager, has left his Atlanta headquarters for Charlotte and New Orleans.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M importation and reprint head, is on a 10-day trip to Atlanta, New Orleans and Dallas.

•

JACK JACKSON has been appointed manager of the Panama, Atlanta, replacing W. F. BOYD, resigned.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, will fly to Chicago today.

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE president, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

RICHARD DE ROCHEMONT, producer of The March of Time, will address the Advertising Club of New York at a luncheon today on the subject, "The Future of the Advertising Film."

•

HARPO MARX will leave Hollywood Feb. 23 at the head of a USO entertainment unit that will spend a week visiting Army and Veterans Administration Hospitals in the Southwest.

•

JOHN BALLANTYNE, Philco Corp. president, has received a War Department "Certificate of Appreciation" for his wartime direction of radar development.

•

BILL O'SULLIVAN, new manager of the Hamilton Theatre, Waterbury, has been presented with a baby girl. MRS. O'SULLIVAN was with the Waterbury Strand.

•

FRANK LAUNDER, British producer-director-writer, is due here on the *Queen Elizabeth* on March 4. He will return to Britain on April 9.

•

HARRY SEGAL, Eagle-Lion's New England sales supervisor, is here for talks with A. W. SCHWALBERG, Eagle-Lion general sales manager.

•

SAM HOROWITZ, manager LOU COHEN'S assistant at Loew's Poli, Hartford, is the father of a baby boy.

•

JOHN P. BYRNE, Eastern M-G-M sales manager, is in Boston for the balance of the week for talks with TOM DONALDSON, branch manager.

•

LEONARD HIRSCH, assistant to RUDY BERGER, Southern M-G-M sales manager, has left here for New Orleans, where he will spend the next month.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON of M-G-M's publicity department, is in Washington from New York.

•

CECIL B. DEMILLE, Paramount producer-director, will leave New York for Hollywood on Sunday.

•

WILLIAM PILOT has succeeded SAM GIANGRAVE as manager of the Colonial Theatre, Southington, Conn.

•

JOHN E. PIRANI has been named manager of the Lafayette Theatre, Central Falls, R. I.

•

JULES LIVINGSTON, Republic salesman in New Haven, has been transferred to Cleveland.

52 'Brotherhood' Members

RKO Radio's home office has enrolled 52 members in the Current "American Brotherhood Week" drive, which more than doubles the RKO number enrolled last year. Leon J. Bamberger heads the company's participation.

Censors on the Fence

CLEVELAND, Feb. 18.—Because the Ohio Censor Board cannot make up its mind on the moral implication involved in the British film, "Murder in Reverse," it was decided to let it play a test engagement at the Lower Mall and let the public decide whether it is objectionable.

Newsreel Parade

SNOW figures prominently in current newsreels, with the spotlight trained on the Byrd expedition, Canada digging out of drifts, skiing meets and the Dartmouth winter carnival. In a warmer vein, there are scenes of gala events at Miami Beach and New Orleans. Completing the reels are reports on Britain's coal crisis, peace treaty developments, and such personalities as President Truman, Babe Ruth, Sir Malcolm Campbell and Laurel and Hardy. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 50—Byrd finds food he left 15 years ago in the Antarctic. Coal crisis continues in England. Italians protest treaty. President Truman visits his mother. Weddings on ice in Holland. Western Canada snow-bound. Sports: skiing in Colorado, Sir Malcolm Campbell to attempt to break speedboat record.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 248—Italians protest peace treaty. Blizzards in Canada. Coal crisis in Britain. Forging the tools of peace. Carnival in New Orleans. Newest in fire fighting. Dartmouth winter carnival. Babe Ruth leaves hospital. "Miss Brevity" contest in Miami Beach.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 51—Sports: "Dear Babe: Please get well—The Gang." Italians protest peace treaty. So you want to be a model. Army begins new training experiment. Snow-bound Canada digs out.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 53—Voice of America beamed to USSR. Chile president hears problems. People: President Truman, Babe Ruth, Laurel and Hardy. Top U. S. skiers in Olympic tests.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 14—Carnival season: New Orleans festival. Pirate Carnival at Tampa, Dartmouth winter carnival. Babe Ruth returns home from hospital. Canada digs out of severe snow storms. Auto races on ice. Spanish-Italian roller hockey competition. Aquatic frolics at Miami Beach.

Schoenstadt Hearings Postponed to Mar. 6

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Hearings on the Schoenstadt Circuit's $675,000 triple damage anti-trust suit, which were scheduled to get under way this morning before Special Master in Chancery Charles A. McDonald, have been postponed again until March 6. Defendants are eight distributors and B. and K. and Warner theatre circuits.

McDonald was appointed by U. S. District Court Judge Philip L. Sullivan to hear evidence in the case.

Some MPA Research Work Shifts to D.C.

Due to lack of office space here, the Motion Picture Association is shifting tabulating equipment used in its research program from New York to Washington. Robert Chambers, research director, yesterday was in Washington working on the transfer. He will continue to maintain headquarters in New York, however.

Correction

Due to a typographical error, Murray Silverstone, president of 20th Century-Fox International, was identified as president of 20th Century-Fox Inter-America in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

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SCOOP OF THE CENTURY!

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, producers of the screen's mightiest entertainments, reveal FOR THE FIRST TIME on any screen the personal HUMAN drama behind the greatest DRAMA of all time, the ATOMIC BOMB! It is the behind-the-scenes story of THE PEOPLE who made it, a LIFE STORY, a LOVE STORY, a MYSTERY STORY woven into the most fascinating and gripping motion picture you ever saw. A solid year in secret, guarded production and now a spectacular entertainment enacted by a hand-picked cast. No cost was spared to make it memorable!

ONE LAST KISS
and then the unknown!

The BEGINNING OR THE END

M-G-M's PICTURE OF PICTURES

Starring
BRIAN DONLEVY · ROBERT WALKER · with TOM DRAKE
BEVERLY TYLER · AUDREY TOTTER · HUME CRONYN

Screen Play by FRANK WEAD · Original Story by ROBERT CONSIDINE · Directed by NORMAN TAUROG · Produced by SAMUEL MARX · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

THEY ARE WAITING FOR IT EAGERLY!

FORECAST!

Launched with widely publicized Global Premieres in leading English-speaking cities of the world! Terrific interest in advance of first engagements, Washington, D.C. and New York City, is prediction of business to come to your theatre!

Reach for the sky boys

Angel and the

starring JOHN WAYN

Knocks them for a ring

Premiere at FOX THEAT

...and that ain't all

each for the sky...
BADMAN
and GAIL RUSSELL
tailed loop in World
RE, in San Francisco!
GOING
GREAT GUNS
DENVER
BALTIMORE
NEW ORLEANS
WATCH FOR OTHER
SMASH OPENINGS!
A REPUBLIC PICTURE

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"Lady in the Lake" fared best at the box-office in a week which found holdovers at most first-run theatres. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $8,900)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $15,000.

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,500)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $19,000)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $14,000)

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,600. (Average: $7,700)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $27,000.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,600)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $12,700)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $8,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $23,700)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $11,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $26,200)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $24,600)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000)

CHILD OF DIVORCE (RKO Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—MARCAL (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $8,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,100)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $15,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,000

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,800)

SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $16,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $23,100)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,238) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $25,000.

CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $39,000. (Average: $24,100)

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,400)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,300. (Average: $9,300)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $8,000)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,600. (Average: $15,100)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $8,000)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $21,600)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,100)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $15,700)

PHILADELPHIA

"Dead Reckoning" is breaking the house record at the Goldman, while business for other films has been uneven. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 18-20:

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $14,000)

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $7,250)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—BOYD (3,000) (50s-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $22,800)

SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Charlie Barnet. Gross: $24,500. (Average, for 7 days: $22,800)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $28,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $36,500. (Average: $26,000)

THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,800)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,500)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $28,300)

HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.30-$1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $25,900. (Average: $24,900)

MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Col.)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,200)

PITTSBURGH

"The Jolson Story" more than doubled the house average at the J. P. Harris in a week of generally good business here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 20:

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,700)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $11,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—PENN (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $25,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on moveover from Harris. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,200)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $26,600. (Average: $25,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week on moveover from Penn. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)

CLEVELAND

Business bounced back to normal with the end of the cold spell. "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim" is in the lead. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

THE BACHELOR'S DAUGHTERS (UA)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,000)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,800)

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)

MURDER IN REVERSE (Four Continents)—LOWER MALL (563) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,500)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $21,400)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB)—WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. Average: $22,600)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB)—WARNERS LAKE (714) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,650)

DENVER

"Till the Clouds Roll By" and "Strange Voyage" are packing the Orpheum to set the pace here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19:

MAGNIFICENT DOLL (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000)

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,500)

ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Webber. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000)

HENRY V (UA)—ESQUIRE (742) ($1.20-$2.40) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $3,500)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) and STRANGE VOYAGE (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $15,500)

THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.) and NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN (U-I)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,000)

ANGEL AND THE LADY (Rep.) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date [illegible] Denver. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $2[illegible]

SALT LAKE CITY

Record-breaking warmth and clear skies helped boost all grosses above average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 20:

KING'S ROW (WB reissue) and WILD BILL HICKOK RIDES (WB reissue)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days on a moveover. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,600)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—CENTRE 1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,900. (Average: $13,500)

HELDORADO (Rep.) and THE INVISIBLE INFORMER (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $3,850. Average: $3,700)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $3,600)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $4,700)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $7,390. (Average: $5,800)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,900. (Average: $12,000)

4 UA Showings in 4 States in 10 Days

United Artists has arranged four world premieres in four states over a period of 10 days.

"The Sin of Harold Diddlebock," California Pictures production, opened last night at the Lincoln Theatre, Miami; "Ramrod," Enterprise-Sherman production, will have its premiere at the Utah Theatre, Salt Lake City, on Friday; "The Fabulous Dorseys," Charles R. Rogers production, will have a premiere at the Regent, Harrisburg, on Feb. 26; "The Private Affairs of Bel Ami," Loew-Lewin film, will make its bow at the State, Cleveland, on the following day.

'Global' Premiere

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The premiere of M-G-M's "The Beginning or the End" at Loew's Palace Theatre here tomorrow evening will be attended by many military personnel portrayed in the picture about the atomic project. Ambassadors and ministers from foreign nations have also indicated that they will be present. Regular run of the picture will begin at the Palace Thursday simultaneously with engagements in New York, London, Ottawa and Sydney.

WOR, WGY, 25 Years Old

Mutual's key station, WOR, and General Electric's WGY, Schenectady, both will observe their 25th year on the air this week. Anniversary programs will be broadcast by the two with Niles Trammell, president of National Broadcasting, to be heard on a WGY show Friday evening, and WOR having two two-hour programs featuring radio and film stars on Saturday.

THE BANK OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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Set Greek Appeal Area Committees

Completion of film exchange area committees for the industry's Appeal for Greek War Orphans, to run March 8-April 8, was announced here yesterday by the general committee, headed by Jack Cohn, Ned Depinet and S. H. Fabian. The industry's plan to launch "$80-clubs," each to save the life of one of needy orphans, has the rescue of 15,000 children as its goal. The drive is sponsored in honor of Nicos Skouras in recognition of his humanitarian efforts.

Exhibitors, film distributors, salesmen, theatre owner groups and home office personnel, as well as Hollywood studio workers, are represented in the committee and officer appointments, as follows:

Treasurer, Harry Kalmine; Hollywood chairman, Al Lichtman; home office chairman, Sol A. Schwartz; assistant chairman, Sam Shain.

Executive committee: Harry Brandt, Ted R. Gamble, Jack Kirsch, Herman Levy, R. H. Poole, Richard F. Walsh, Fred Wehrenberg and Paul Williams.

Distributors committee: Tom Connors, chairman; George Dembow, Morey Goldstein, James R. Grainger, Ben Kalmenson, William Kupper, Robert Mochrie, Abe Montague, Charles Reagan, William F. Rodgers, William A. Scully, Harry Thomas, Joseph Unger.

Co-ordinators: Robert W. Coyne, J. Edward Shugrue.

Publicity committee: S. Barret McCormick, Ben Serkowich.

Exchange area chairmen: Albany, Neil Hellman, C. J. Latta, Edwin Ruff, Louis Schine; Atlanta, Fred R. Dodson, R. B. Wilby, Mitchell Wolfson; Boston, Sam Pinanski, I. H. Rogovin, Nathan Yamins; Buffalo, Merritt Kyser, Elmer Lux, Vincent McFaul; Charlotte, J. V. Frew, H. F. Kincey, Ben Strozier; Chicago, John Balaban, James E. Coston, Jack Kirsch, Arthur Schoenstadt, Edwin Silverman, J. H. Stevens, Ed Zorn; Cincinnati, E. R. Custer, Jack Finberg, Sol Hyman, Maurice White, P. J. Wood; Cleveland, Myer Fine, John D. Kalafat, Milt Mooney, I. J. Schmertz, Martin Smith.

Also: Dallas, Col. H. A. Cole, R. J. O'Donnell, Henry Reeve, Sol M. Sachs; Delaware, A. Joseph De Fiore; Denver, V. J. Dugan, R. J. Garland, John M. Wolfberg; Des Moines, Myron Blank, Paul Webster, Leo Wolcott; Detroit, Ray Branch, Dave Idzal, Edward Hochstin, Earl Hudson, James F. Sharkey; Indianapolis, Ken Collins, W. Guy Craig; Kentucky, Sam Switow; Kansas City, Richard Biechele, Elmer Bills, Russel C. Borg, Doc Cook, Elmer C. Rhoden; Los Angeles, Clyde W. Eckhardt, R. H. Poole, Charles Skouras; Memphis, Louis Ingram, Ed Sapinsley; Milwaukee, William Ainsworth, Harold Fitzgerald, J. R. Neger.

Also: Minneapolis, Ben Berger, L. J. Miller; New Haven, Henry Germaine, I. J. Hoffman, Herman Levy; New Orleans, Luke Connor, E. V. Richards, Jr.; New York, Ben Abner, Max A. Cohen, Ralph Pielow, Sam Rinzler, Fred Schwartz, Joseph R. Vogel; Northern New Jersey, Adam Adams, Frank Damis; Oklahoma City, L. C. Griffith, Morris Loewenstein, C. H. Weaver; Omaha, Howard Brookings, F. J. Hannon, William Miskell; Philadelphia, Jay Emanuel, L. Formato, Lewen Pizor, Ted Schlanger; Pittsburgh, Morris Finkel, John H. Harris, M. E. Lefko, Mike Manos, John Notopoulos, Moe Silver, Bert Stearn; Portland, Willard Gamble, Robert White, R. O. Wilson; Rhode Island, Ed Fay.

Also: St. Louis, Harry Arthur, Harry Hynes, Fred Wehrenberg; Salt Lake City, Tracy Barham, Clyde Blasius, Sam L. Gillette; San Francisco, H. Neal East, George Nasser, Richard Spier; Seattle, E. A. Lamb, Frank Newman, V. Stewart; Washington, John Allen, Carter Barron, W. F. Crockett, Fred Kogod, Sidney Lust, John J. Payette.

New Anti-Billboard Bills

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Four billboard control bills which would limit roadside advertising of motion pictures and other products, were introduced in the New York legislature yesterday by Senator Thomas C. Desmond, Newburgh Republican.

"The Beginning or the End"

(*Continued from page* 1)

"know how." Yet there appears to be enough resemblance between the film and published accounts to make "The Beginning or the End" an exciting and engrossing motion picture.

Producer Samuel Marx was always aware that he was concerning himself with serious business here, a business so serious that the future of civilization hangs in the balance. Consequently, there is a deadly and almost never relieved earnestness about what has been given to the world as the circumstances leading into the decision to proceed with the harnessing of atomic energy and the invention of the A-bomb.

In the sense that the story is new, the film has little to add. Rather is it a re-enactment of the steps by which the Manhattan Project progressed from laboratory to Oak Ridge to Los Alamos to Hiroshima. Famous figures of contemporary history pass in interesting parade in the telling. First, the scientists working in nuclear physics, Albert Einstein's participation in focalizing President Roosevelt's attention to the successful research. Then, the decision and the appointment of Major General Leslie R. Groves to handle the job and the assorted setbacks and gains leading to the success of the combined efforts of a million workers over a period of three years at a cost of two billion dollars.

The treatment is largely in the documentary flavor. Thus, while actors essay roles, genuine names are used—Roosevelt, depicted in astonishing likeness and voice by Godfrey Tearle; Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, by Hume Cronyn; Groves, by Brian Donlevy; President Truman, in profile, by Art Baker; Dr. Enrico Fermi, by Joseph Calleia; Dr. Einstein, by Ludwig Strossel; Dr. Harold C. Urey, by John Hamilton; Dr. James B. Conant, by Frank Ferguson. In that parade of scientific, military and headline personalities also appear Dr. Karl Compton, Dr. Vannevar Bush, General Brehon Somervell, Grace Tully and Charles G. Ross, but slipped in are the fictional characters. Tom Drake is the young and brilliant researcher who debates the moralities in unleashing atomic energy for wartime uses, but who dies saving American troops on a note of hope that his and others' handiwork will be turned to peacetime pursuits. His romantic tie is Beverly Tyler. Robert Walker is the colonel assigned as liaison between army and project but who finds time to develop a love affair with Audrey Totter.

The story skein, as distinguished from the documentary phases, is puerile, but the dramatic concentration here inescapably is the atom and the bomb it grew up to become. Against such an overwhelming and terrifying background, no boy-meets-girl romance could have had a chance.

Cronyn poses the problem, describing the development of the bomb as the beginning and leaving it—and the film—to the 25th century to determine what the end is to be. Tribute is paid to the cooperation of big business—the duPonts, General Electrics and the others—yet the viewpoint of many noted men of science gets its fair representation as well. They ponder their work, speculate if they have accomplished a service or have confronted mankind with its most devastating means of mass destruction. There is no answer, since the answer has yet to be found. But there is the hope sounded that man will use his new knowledge for the good of his brother.

Performances are good throughout, but the awesome flashes of lights, the accelerating hum of hidden power and the thunder of the machines dominate. Aided by a battery of official technical advisers, both scientific and military, Norman Taurog handled a difficult directorial assignment with commendability from an original story by Robert Considine and a script by Frank Wead.

Running time, 112 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

"The Farmer's Daughter"

(*Continued from page* 1)

as it should have been received (and is destined to be received by paying customers everywhere), with that kind of whole-hearted enjoyment that spells heavy grosses and pleasant customer contacts for theatre managers.

It is a foregone conclusion that the customers will swarm to see it if marquee names count for anything. Topping a completely winning cast are Loretta Young, Joseph Cotten, and Ethel Barrymore, and with them are Charles Bickford, Rose Hobart, Tom Powers, Anna Q. Nilsson, Rhys Williams, Harry Davenport and a host of others.

The story is about a bucolic Minnesota farm girl of Swedish parents (Miss Young) who brings her quaint accent and staunch political beliefs into the household of a big city Minnesota congressman (Cotten), finds her simple political philosophy hypnotizing the big city big-wigs, and ultimately sees herself swept into Congress as a representative and as the wife of Cotten whose serving maid she once was. Wholesome comedy well stocked with smiles, chuckles and guffaws, this one also presents some savory snatches of democratic thinking, with the common man and his interests to the fore.

Cotten as the aristocratic, yet ardently democratic congressman is excellent in both comic and serious sequences. Miss Barrymore, in the role of his mother, has an unchallenging part, but one that gives her opportunities to put across in well-barbed Barrymore fashion some nicely sardonic bits of dialogue. Bickford, playing the butler of the household, shines brightly in a minor role and Williams is quite satisfactorily contemptible as an oafish house painter named Adolph who slings mud at Miss Young during her campaign and pays dearly for it during a slug-fest in which the young lady's three farmer brothers defend her interests in admirable fashion.

H. C. Potter, directing from a script by Allen Rivkin and Laura Kerr, can take credit for a nice piece of work in his department. Dore Schary produced.

Running time, 97 minutes. General audience classification. For April release.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

Internat'l Projector In New N. J. Plant

Members of the trade press were guests of International Projector Corp. this week at its modernized plant in Bloomfield, N. J., where production of Simplex projection and sound equipment is now completely installed after three decades in New York.

Manufacturing processes formerly distributed vertically through 14 floors are now organized, in production-line fashion, on a single vast level. The two-story brick building, which formerly was an assembly plant of General Motors, contains 180,000 square feet. The second floor is devoted to offices and a cafeteria for employes, who now number 450.

Attending from headquarters in New York were Walter Green, vice-president of National Theatre Supply, and Arthur E. Meyer, sales manager. Other hosts to the trade paper men were John F. Campbell, general manager of the plant; Frank Goldback, director of engineering; Willy Borberg, assistant to Goldbeck; Edward Warfolk, comptroller; Henry Heidegger, supervisor of the repair department.

Would Explore ABPC 'Duel' Distribution

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Despite a formal denial by the Selznick Releasing Organization of reports that "Duel in the Sun" would be given distribution here through Anglo-American Film Co., which recently was acquired by Associated British Pictures Corp. William Erbb, SRO's British general sales manager, is hoping to get together with Max Milder, ABPC managing director, to discuss the potentialities of a deal, it is learned.

British Producer Gets Going on Diesel

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Gainsborough's Shepherds Bush studio resumed operations today following an idle week because of the fuel crisis. Sydney Box, head of the studio, rented Diesel engines to provide power, thereby enabling 700 workers to resume their jobs.

World Film Festival In Brussels in June

Member companies of the Motion Picture Association as well as British, French, Russian, Swiss and Belgian producers will take an active part in the World Film Festival during June of this year in Brussels, according to Richard Zondervan, general manager of the Festival's offices here.

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Five Are Reelected To Warner Board

WILMINGTON, Feb. 18.—Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles S. Guggenheimer, Samuel Schneider and Morris Wolf were reelected to the directorate of Warner Brothers Pictures for terms of two years at today's annual meeting of company stockholders. Some 5,081,642 shares of 7,402,180 outstanding were represented at the meeting.

The stockholders were informed that although profits for the second quarter, which will end March 1, will not be as large as those of the first quarter, yet during the second quarter to date, gross receipts and the profit after taxes are larger than those for the corresponding period last year.

Since publication of the company's annual report late in December, the stockholders also were informed, the decision has been entered in the anti-trust suit brought by the Government against eight companies, management pointing out that the final decree provides for substantially the same points as were covered by the decision handed down on June 11, 1946, and it is expected that the case will be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

South America Is Booming, Says Cohn

Increased activity both at box-offices and in studios was noted by Jack Cohn in Central and South American countries, the Columbia executive vice-president revealed here yesterday following his return to New York after a business tour of Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Panama, Brazil and Argentina.

In the latter two countries he was guest at two Columbia International Corp. conventions, one held in Rio de Janeiro, the other in Buenos Aires.

He stated that virtually all South American countries have increased domestic production, and theatre repair and construction, limited during the war, has now resumed on a large scale.

Postpone Scophony Hearing Until May

Trial of the Scophony anti-trust suit, scheduled to come up this month in Federal District Court here, yesterday was adjourned until the middle of May. The postponement is understood to be in consequence of a pending appeal to the Supreme Court by the Government from Judge Edward A. Conger's dismissal of Scophony, Ltd., as a defendant in the suit.

Obscene Ad Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

whose district includes the Times Square area in New York City, being the lone negative voter. The measure passed the assembly by unanimous vote yesterday. Introduction of the bill followed a recommendation by the state board of regents after they had heard appeals for revocation of the license issued to Howard Hughes' "The Outlaw" on the grounds that advertising of the film was objectionable.

Talent Guilds Begin Reissue Pay Study

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—The Screen Writers' Guild Board is considering a preliminary report from a committee which met on Monday with committees representing the Screen Directors' Guild and the Screen Actors' Guild to canvass the possibilities of obtaining clauses in talent contracts providing for special compensation in connection with reissued pictures. The plan, advanced by the SWG, would give writers, directors, and actors perpetual participation in the yield obtained by distributors and producers from all pictures made. Spokesmen for all the guilds said that today's meeting was strictly exploratory.

Columbia Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

selling singly for its independent producers. Columbia has appealed from the single-sales requirement in the New York judges' final decree, as well as from the competitive-bidding system outlined by the court.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Nov. 1, 1945, Montague took the stand here the day before and declared that his company's method of selling a year's product at once "is absolutely vital and necessary," adding: "If we were to change, we would have to change the entire financial base of the company. We do not have enough money to keep inventories of films." One of the reasons for this, he pointed out, was that Columbia had no theatres. Montague also countered attempts by Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, to develop instances of alleged favoritism in the company's sales to affiliated circuits.

Scully's testimony, describing Universal's attempts to sell as many as 50 features in advance, referred to difficulties in getting product played, even under that method, in numerous situations. It also included evidence refuting Wright's attempt to establish instances of Universal's charging higher percentages to independents in subsequent runs than to affiliated first-run houses.

UA Contracts

(*Continued from page* 1)

would place UA in violation of the Government decree was sought today by Gradwell Sears, UA vice-president in charge of distribution, in a two-hour meeting at the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers' headquarters attended by producers and their counsel.

Sears said afterwards that the directive sought would not do away with the producers' right of approval of sales contracts, but that it would empower the distributor to disregard clauses which, in actual application, were found to be violative. Price fixing and roadshowing were among the types of clauses referred to. The directive would go into effect within 30 days, and would be binding only during the period of the decree's applications serving as an interim agreement pending outcome of the appeal of the decree to the Supreme Court.

Producers' counsel and business managers meet tomorrow afternoon for further study of Sears' proposal. A full meeting of all producers and UA officials is set for a week from today.

Skouras

(*Continued from page* 1)

"the high quality" of product, requiring the heaviest production budget in the history of the company.

Skouras, who returned here last week after studio conferences with Darryl F. Zanuck and Joseph M. Schenck, addressed the morning session of the company's first postwar national sales conference at the Hotel Astor. The conference, which opened Monday, will wind up today with a recapitulation of the discussions of the past two days.

Pointing out that seven of the 20 features on the company's program this year will be in Technicolor, Skouras told the assembled division sales, district and branch managers that 20th-Fox will continue its policy of producing "best sellers, outdoor pictures in color, musicals in Technicolor and the realistic type of picture" such as "The House on 92nd Street," "13 Rue Madeleine" and "Boomerang." With such recent books as "The Black Rose," "Forever Amber," "Snake Pit," "Captain from Castile," "Brittania Mews," "The Dark Wood," "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay!", "Gentleman's Agreement," "Not So Long Ago" and "Lydia Bailey," the company has a greater number of literary properties than ever before in its history, he asserted.

Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising and publicity, outlined the company's plans to back up each of its pictures with "maximum advertising, publicity and exploitation," in his talk during the afternoon session. Other speakers were Herman Wobber, Western division sales manager, who explained the plans to launch the re-release of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band"; Donald A. Henderson, treasurer, who spoke on the business outlook for the current year; Richard De Rochemont, March of Time head, and Paul Terry, Terry-Toon president, both of whom discussed their respective production plans, and Andrew W. Smith, Jr., Eastern division sales manager, who spoke on specialized sales plans.

Jason S. Joy, director of public relations at the 20th-Fox studio, who is here from Hollywood, was a visitor to the convention. Anthony Muto, the company's representative in Washington, also attended the conference.

Members of the advertising, publicity, exploitation and radio departments who attended yesterday's meeting included: Jules Fields, Christy Wilbert, Jonas Rosenfield, Rodney Bush, Irving Kahn, Sid Blumenstock, Stirling Silliphant, Eddie Solomon, Earl Wingart, Abe Goodman, George Generalis, and Al Kayton. Morris Kinzler of the Kayton-Spiero Agency also was present.

RKO Exchange Fire

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—An automatic sprinkling system was credited with preventing the spread of a fire at the RKO exchange here yesterday. It started from a spark from a machine being used by a film inspectress, Isabel Cramer, who suffered first degree burns on face and arms.

Correction

David O'Malley, director of advertising-publicity for Columbia International, was inadvertently identified as advertising-publicity director of Columbia in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

Eisler Brother's Job On Coast Is Cited

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Rep. John Rankin (Miss.) today charged that Hans Eisler, brother of Government prisoner and alleged American Communist leader Gerhard Eisler, is in Hollywood "poisoning" motion pictures. Rankin told the House that Eisler is in the employ of a major producer and is doing odd jobs, including song writing.

Para. Theatre Men

(*Continued from page* 1)

with respect to disposition of [illegible]mount theatre interests outlawed by the decree will be made at the meeting due to the likelihood of Supreme Court appeals by the company and others. The situation will be canvassed generally, however, and probable courses of action will be explored.

Among those attending the meeting are Barney Balaban, Austin Keough, Louis Phillips, Goldenson and Walter Gross from the home office; Y. Frank Freeman, studio vice-president, and theatre associates E. V. Richards, John Balaban, A. H. Blank, Sam Pinanski, Martin Mullin, R. B. Wilby, H. F. Kincey, Frank C. Walker, Earl Hudson, M. A. Lightman, Karl Hoblitzelle, R. J. O'Donnell, Hunter Perry, W. K. Jenkins and Harry Nace.

Krim on Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

opinion of Arthur Krim, president of Eagle-Lion, and member of the law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim.

Krim said he sees the court's decision as setting down the rules of law, adding that "there are many ways" in which these may be conformed with. Only in the case of the defendants, he said, does the court set down the means of compliance.

He said Eagle-Lion will, of course, comply with any provision of the decision which declares any distribution activity illegal, such as the conditioning of licensing of one picture upon the licensing of another. As a matter of fact, he went on, a policy of single sales was made known in the original announcement of the organization of Eagle-Lion.

Names in News

(*Continued from page* 1)

the hosts, together with William K. Hollander, publicity-advertising director of B. and K., who will leave for a Hollywood vacation next week.

Included among those who are expected to attend, in addition to toastmaster Pine, are: Bill Thomas, John Joseph, David Lipton, Joseph Kaufman, Maurice Lipstone, Archie Herzoff, Dorothy Deere, James Luntzeli, Joe Lawler and Gene Murphy.

AMPA 'Salute' Delayed

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' 30th anniversary salute to leaders of the industry, to be held at the Hotel Astor, here, has been postponed from April 2 to April 23 so it will not conflict with the holy days.

Lucius Henderson, 86

Lucius J. Henderson, retired actor and film director died here yesterday at 86 after a long illness. He was a feature-length film pioneer and helped start Rudolph Valentino's career.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 35 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1947 TEN CENTS

GOV'T, UNIVERSAL, UA FILING APPEALS

All Three Actions Go to New York Court Today; UA Claims 80 Errors

The Department of Justice today will file its appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, seeking complete divorcement of distribution and exhibition in preference to the relief granted by the New York Federal District Court in the industry anti-trust suit, while at the same time United Artists and Universal will enter appeals from all provisions of the final decree which apply to them and will ask that the government's complaints against them be dismissed outright.

Already filed is an appeal by Columbia, limited to an attack on the competitive-bidding system set up by the local court and the injunctions against conditioning the sale of one film upon the sale of another, as well

(*Continued on page 7*)

Admission Taxes To Be Reexamined

Washington, Feb. 19.—Rep. Knutson (Minn.) announced today that the House Ways and Means Committee will examine the entire excise tax structure, including federal admission taxes, with a view to reducing future levies where there are inequities.

He said that the study would not affect pending legislation to continue the excise taxes indefinitely, as agreed by both houses. A joint conference committee today failed to agree on differences in the pending legislation.

Field Grosses Fail to Keep Pace with '46

But Business Recovers From Year-End Slump

Although theatre business at key first-runs throughout the country has climbed substantially since the seasonal slump at the end of the year, it is running consistently a little below the level of the early part of 1946, according to a tabulation of reports from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents covering some 175 situations.

Average weekly gross per theatre for the five weeks ended Feb. 1 stood at $18,867, which was well above the $15,885 average of December but compared unfavorably with the $19,527 average of Jan., 1946.

The week ending on Jan. 4, which included New Year's Eve business,

(*Continued on page 7*)

Price Leaves MPA for UN

Byron Price has resigned as vice-president in charge of Coast operations of the Motion Picture Association to accept the post of assistant secretary-general of the United Nations. Trygve Lie is the UN's secretary-general with headquarters in New York.

Price joined the MPA as vice-president on Feb. 1, 1946. Previously he had been executive news editor of the Associated Press here, United States director of censorship (between 1941 and 1945), and had served as President Truman's personal representative on a special mission to Germany.

Eric Johnston, MPA president, issued from Washington last night the following statement in connection with Price's resignation:

"The appointment of Mr. Price is a

(*Continued on page 5*)

Ill. Allied Expected To Reelect Kirsch

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Jack Kirsch is expected to be reelected president of Allied Theatres of Illinois when the group holds its annual election at the Continental Hotel here next Tuesday.

At a directors' meeting yesterday, presided over by Kirsch, Richard Salkin of the Jackson Park Theatre and former treasurer of the group, was elected to the board. Other action included endorsement and support of "American Brotherhood Week," the American Red Cross Drive and the Greek War Orphan drive.

Myers Seeks Trust Law Enforcement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—A comprehensive study of means for better enforcement of the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust and Federal Trade acts was suggested here today by Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied States. He expressed the belief that existing laws are adequate but said the problem is to enforce them properly, although enforcement is better today than ever, he said.

He disclosed that no decision has been reached by Allied concerning its participation in the exhibitor

(*Continued on page 4*)

Judell Organizing Film, Sales Group

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Ben Judell, long time operator of his own film exchange in Chicago, and now an independent Hollywood producer, discloses on his arrival here from the Coast that, in conjunction with a prominent Eastern exhibitor, he is organizing a nationwide group of independent film exchanges, all of which will participate in film production, and which will be called Co-operative Film Exchanges.

Judell said that a meeting will be held within the next few weeks, probably in New York, to complete details of organization, adding that the new company plans to make six exploitation films annually.

Connors Ends 20th-Fox Meet

Reiterating remarks made on the previous day by Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, Tom J. Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, brought to a close yesterday the final session of the company's first postwar national sales conference, held at the Hotel Astor, here, by instructing divisional, district and branch managers present to abide by all of the rules and regulations laid down in the decree decision made by the New York Federal Court as they relate to sales procedure.

Upon the conclusion of Connors' address, branch managers began their

(*Continued on page 7*)

Schlaifer Tour to Promote Product

In line with the advertising, publicity and exploitation procedure adopted for "The Razor's Edge," in maintaining a direct home office liaison with field offices, Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox advertising - publicity director, will leave New York around March 1 for a two-week tour of the company's Southern branches to confer on local promotional campaigns on new 20th-Fox product. First stop will be Atlanta where Schlaifer expects to remain a day or two to sum up the local situa-

Charles Schlaifer

(*Continued on page 7*)

80 at Screen Guild Meeting, May 12-16

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Screen Guild productions' national sales conference and annual board of directors and stockholders meeting will be held here May 12-16, with top company officials staying over for the Variety Club convention on May 16-18.

More than 80 franchise holders, branch managers and home office executives will participate in the four-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Series of Roosevelt Films Contemplated

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—"Several motion pictures about Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his place in the nation and the world" will be produced by Jay Richard Kennedy with the assistance of James Roosevelt under terms of an agreement announced by Kennedy and Roosevelt here today.

The number to be produced, their distribution channel, and the subject

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"Trail Street" and "Law of the Lash" are reviewed on page 6. Key city grosses are given on the same page.

Personal Mention

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, vice-president and Eastern studio representative of 20th Century-Fox, is due to return to New York today from the Coast.

•

MARJORIE M. SWEIGERT, Army nurse and daughter of EARLE W. SWEIGERT, Paramount Mideastern sales manager, will be married on March 1 to CAPT. HOWARD D. REINERT, JR., at Fort Myer, Va.

•

CHARLES J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western divison sales manager, left Los Angeles yesterday for Portland, San Francisco and Seattle, and will return to Los Angeles on Feb. 28.

•

MR. and MRS. STANLEY MEYER (she is the former DORIS BLUMBERG) are in Florida following a honeymoon trip to South America, and will return to New York next week.

•

SARAH JANE MOORE, daughter of D. F. (DINTY) MOORE, Warners' Pittsburgh branch manager, will be married tomorrow in that city to ROBERT S. KINDLE.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Southern division sales manager for Warner Brothers, is in Washington today from New York, and will be in Philadelphia tomorrow.

•

AARON SCHINDLER has been named assistant manager of Keith's Theatre, Cincinnati, succeeding JOSEPH DONAGHUE, who resigned to join Theatre Candy Co.

•

SARA LYONS DANTO has been elected to the board of governors of the Paramount Pictures Club, succeeding MARGARET QUINN, who has left the company.

•

PATRICIA LAMBERT of M-G-M's Eastern story department is engaged to marry WILLIAM GRISWOLD BURT, JR., of Boston.

•

ALBERT WARNER, vice-president of Warner Brothers, will fly from Hollywood to Miami tomorrow, en route here.

•

ED WOLPIN, general manager of the Famous and Paramount Music Companies, left Hollywood yesterday by train for Chicago, on his way here.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M's exploitation chief, left here yesterday for Chicago.

Mirisch Resigns as RKO Film Buyer

Harold J. Mirisch, who has been film buyer for RKO Theatres, since 1942, has resigned, the company disclosed yesterday. Mirisch, who maintained headquarters at the New York home office, will announce his future plans shortly.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

MAILBAG item: "I read with interest your column in the issue of February 13 the item concerning the Vogue theatre. You stated that the Louisville action appears to be the first time a landlord has stepped into the situation, propelled by his apparent conviction and his specific allegation that the two amount to the same thing'," writes Herman M. Levy, general counsel of MPTOA.

[*This referred to a suit brought by T. P. Taylor, owner of the property on which the Vogue stands, against William Rosenthal of Rosenthal Theatre Enterprises, Indianapolis, alleging that his lease calls for a minimum rent or 12 per cent of gross receipts, which ever is larger, and that the tenant has failed to include candy sales in the gross.*]

"Correction: In the MPTOA bulletin of July 8, 1946, the following item appeared:

"'In the recent case of Easton Transit Theatre Co. against Pomfret Realty Co. in Easton, Pa., the court of common pleas rendered judgment declaring that money received by the theatre owner from Federal admission taxes and from the sale of candy, popcorn, soft drinks, dishes and similar items was not 'gross receipts' from the tenant's operation of the theatre premises for the purpose of determining what rent was due under a percentage lease'."

■

We are indebted to Levy for recalling the forgotten Easton case. It alters the beginnings of the record on a situation which appears to have long distances to travel before there can emerge any conclusions which may be viewed as final.

Nice, too, to learn there's one diligent reader ready to take his typewriter in hand.

■

As an offshoot, there is the incident of the Orpheum and State, Loew houses in St. Louis, which have posted lobby signs bearing the legend, "Popcorn is not allowed in this theatre." Those fortifying themselves against disappointments on the screen are being asked to check their munchings at the door.

The standard, however, must be moving ever upward. Used to be guns out on the plains.

■ ■

Distributors are very alive these days to the possibilities in what is rumor thus far: That Loew's will build its own Music Hall-type of theatre on the site of the Hotel Astor one of these years, the decree and real estate complications allowing. Latest of the unconfirmed stories has it Loew's will control fifty per cent of the project, which will also include an office building and the like; the Shuberts, 25 per cent, and Walter Reade, the remaining one-quarter.

If the project develops, the new first run will become the chief show window for Metro product in New York thereby opening time—and plenty of it—at the Music Hall.

"National Velvet" opened at Radio City on December 14, 1944, and ran six weeks, the final four in 1945. "Without Love" ran six, "The Valley of Decision" nine, "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" four, and "Week-End at the Waldorf" nine for a total of 32 weeks in calendar year, 1945. Last year, "Adventure" ran five, "The Green Years" seven, and "Till the Clouds Roll By" three, the final four of its seven week run slopping over into 1947. And thus far this year, "The Yearling" has played four and starts its fifth week today. "The Sea of Grass" follows at the conclusion of its run.

■ ■

"But at 20th-Fox from here out," Zanuck says, "it will be a case of figuring out the price of each attraction as it prepares to slide off the planning board on its way to the stages"—*Insider's Outlook, September* 12, 1946.

"On a plan designed to leave production costs adjustable to the scope of each individual story the 20th Century-Fox studio will operate without an overall budget for the coming year, the company announced here today . . ."—Hollywood dispatch, MOTION PICTURE DAILY, February 6, 1947.

The studio is a bit late, isn't it?

■ ■

At a Paramount luncheon for Cecil B. DeMille yesterday, someone asked his explanation of antagonism to American films abroad. He gave the opinion it tied to economic reasons because trade followed the film. Then, he observed, "I hope good pictures fly under the flag of good pictures, and nothing else."

To this, we add on our own: And nothing else, including nationalism and artificially contrived trade barriers.

Coming Events

Feb. 22-25—United Artists district sales meeting, Buffalo.

Feb. 27-Mar. 2—United Artists district sales meetings, Pittsburgh and El Paso.

Mar. 3—Institute of Radio Engineers convention, Hotel Commodore and Grand Central Palace, New York.

Mar. 6-9—United Artists district sales meeting in Chicago.

Mar. 8-Apr. 8—Industry drive for War Orphans of Greece.

Mar. 10—Kansas-Missouri Theatres Association regional meeting, Abiline, Kan.

Mar. 10-11—Motion Picture Forum meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.

Mar. 11—Inauguration dinner of Toledo Variety Club.

Mar. 12—Academy Awards presentations, Shrine Auditorium, Hollywood.

Mar. 18-19—Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio annual convention, Dashler Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Mar. 25-26—Rocky Mountain area exhibitors meeting, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver.

Mar. 25—Balaban and Katz "alumni" dinner, Beverly-Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, Cal.

Mar. 26—Annual meeting of the Motion Picture Association.

McCarey to Produce Three for Rainbow

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19. — Rainbow Productions' schedule for 1947 includes three top-budget pictures, with Leo McCarey to produce all three and, in addition, to direct one. Two of the three are based on ideas of McCarey's. The third will be made from a novel.

McCarey will produce and direct, and is now helping in the writing of his own screen idea, "Adam and Eve." Sinclair Lewis is preparing the screenplay. It will have only two players. McCarey will also produce "Good Sam," also his idea. John Klorer and Ken Englund are writing the screenplay. Norman McLeod will direct one of the productions.

Hersch Has a Series On Stephen Foster

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Henri Elman, head of Capitol Film Co., Chicago, who has returned after several months in Hollywood, discloses that in partnership with Sam Hersch he will release 12 two-reel subjects in color, starting in April, in a series called "The Life of Stephen Foster," based on the composer's songs.

Elman said that the subjects are already complete in 16mm., and 35mm. prints are now being made.

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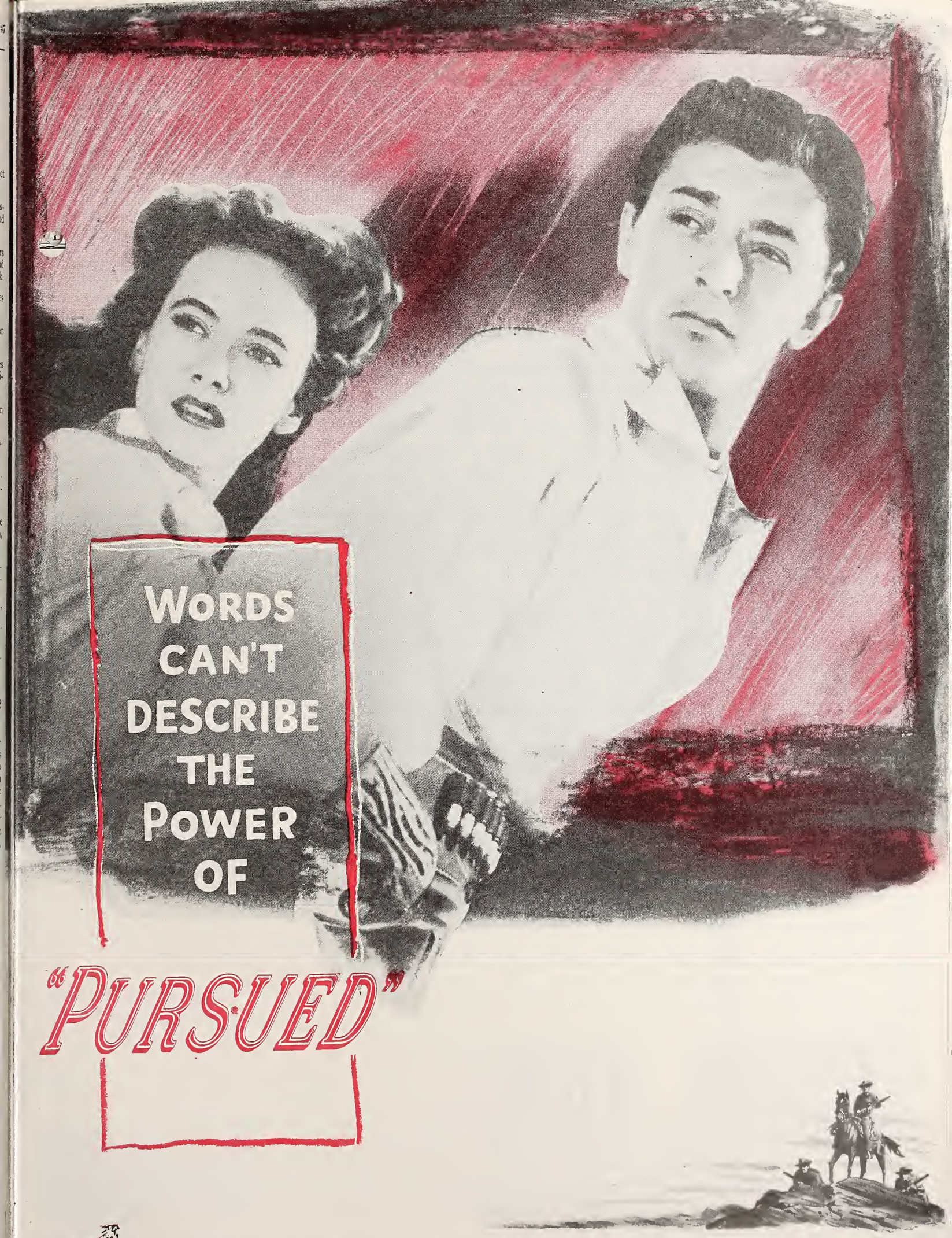

WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE THE POWER OF
"PURSUED"
SA WRIGHT ROBERT MITCHUM in MILTON SPERLING'S PRODUCTION of NIVEN BUSCH'S "PURSUED" with JUDITH ANDERSON • DEAN JAGGER • ALAN HALE and Introducing JOHN ROONEY
ORIGINAL SCREEN PLAY BY NIVEN BUSCH • MUSIC BY MAX STEINER • Directed by RAOUL WALSH • Produced by UNITED STATES PICTURES for WARNERS

Ted Gamble Buys Monarch Circuit

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 19. — Ted Gamble has completed a deal with Harry Katz for the purchase of Monarch Theatres, including an interest in the Circle, Indiana and Lyric Theatres here, 50 per cent of which is held by the Fourth Avenue Amusement Co. of Louisville, Ky., Willard Gamble, his brother, disclosed tonight. Legal technicalities which arose following the death of Dave Chatkin, minority stockholder, last Friday, a few minutes after the contract was signed, are expected to be straightened out in a few weeks.

LeRoy J. Furman, assistant treasurer of Monarch Theatres, revealed in New York last night that purchase of Monarch by Gamble had been agreed upon some time ago, but finalization was held up by Chatkin's death. Katz, who was president of the circuit, will probably retire owing to ill health and Furman expects to assume many of the duties carried by Katz.

Comprising the circuit, in addition to the three Indianapolis houses, are one theatre each in Akron and Steubenville, Ohio, and one in New Castle, Pa.

Altec and Circuits Renew Service Pacts

Altec Service Corp. has renewed service and parts contracts with Associated Theatres, Cleveland; Rhinehook Theatres, Red Hook, N. Y., for theatres in New York and Connecticut; Bartelstein Theatres, Chicago; Twin City Theatres, Chehalis, Wash.; Eastland Theatres, Los Angeles, Vinnicof Theatre Circuit, Los Angeles; Gibralter Enterprise, Denver, for theatres in Colorado, New Mexico and Nebraska.

Si Meyers, Jersey Exhibitor, Dead

Si Meyers, vice-president of North Jersey Allied Theatre Owners and legislative representative at Trenton, who died suddenly at Miami Beach, Fla., on Monday, will be buried tomorrow from the Grovler Funeral Parlors, Moorestown, N. J. Myers, who operated the Garden Theatre, Trenton, was 55 years old.

Youngstein to Aid Cancer

Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity for Eagle-Lion, yesterday was named consultant to the motion picture division of the American Cancer Society. He will work with Norman Winter, national public information director of the Society, as a volunteer for 1947.

No Camden Paper, Grosses Drop

Philadelphia, Feb. 19—Although radio, sound trucks and advertisements in weekly papers are being used extensively by film advertisers since the suspension of the Camden *Courier-Post*, these media are not sufficient to counteract the box-office slump in that city due to the lack of a newspaper, according to theatremen there.

The *Evening Bulletin* and the *Inquirer*, Philadelphia papers widely read in the Camden area, have started running motion picture schedules for theatres in Camden and vicinity.

MGM Sets Premiere For 'Grass', Feb. 26

Plans have been completed by M-G-M for the world premiere of "Sea of Grass", at the Stuart Theatre, Lincoln, Neb., on Feb. 26. The theatre is operated by the Cooper Foundation.

Gov. Val Peterson, state senate member, former Gov. G. R. McKelvie, on whose ranch outdoor scenes of the film were photographed, and other state and local dignitaries have been invited to attend. Station KFOR, Lincoln outlet for Mutual, will broadcast the activities. Gene Rich, Omaha exploiteer for M-G-M, is handling details of the engagement, under direction of William R. Ferguson, director of exploitation. Assisting are Ted Butterfield, Cooper city manager, and John Schafleutzel, Bob Buchanan and Charles Shire, Lincoln managers for the Cooper organization.

Theatre Construction Hit

TORONTO, Feb. 19.—M. J. Coldwell, leader of an opposition party in the Canadian House of Commons, has opened fire against the Liberal Government with criticism for the lack of leadership in solving the housing situation, using as his main argument the government's permission for the erection of theatres and breweries at a time when construction of homes for war veterans and wage-earners was held up through shortage of building materials.

Donoghue at Vanguard

Terry Donoghue, former New York newspaperman, has joined Vanguard Films as unit publicity man for David O. Selznick's "Portrait of Jennie" which will be produced in New York under the direction of William Dieterle and co-starring Jennifer Jones and Joseph Cotten. Donoghue a few years ago had the publicity post at Loew's State here.

READY NOW!

We've been promising it—now IT'S READY! Write, wire or phone for details about Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service.—1321 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5.

FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

Teams to Aid Local Foundation Meets

Exchange area chairmen of the Motion Picture Foundation are being advised by the organization's steering committee that three-man teams will be available where needed to assist in setting local organizational meetings in April, according to Jerry Zigmond, Paramount theatre executive, who is aiding in getting the Foundation started.

Each group probably will include one representative of the distributors, one from exhibition and one from the trade press. Area chairmen in most cases are those who served in the same capacity for the War Activities Committee.

Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, is chairman of the steering committee which also includes Sam Pinanski, Tom Connors, H. A. Cole, Karl Hoblitzelle, Ted Gamble, Chick Lewis, Fred Wehrenberg, Edward G. Zorn and Leonard Goldenson.

Higher Tax Move In Bakersfield

BAKERSFIELD, CAL., Feb. 19.—An effort is being made to place on the April 8 city election ballot a proposal for an amusement tax of one cent for the first 15 cents admission and one cent for each additional 15. Members of the Property Owners Association and other civic groups are circulating a petition in favor of the tax.

At present, the city is levying a tax of one cent on every ticket, which was anticipated to yield from $30,000 to $40,000 for the current year. However, accrued revenue for the last quarter during which the tax has been in effect totaled only $5,000.

Pittsfield Tax Boost

PITTSFIELD, MASS., Feb. 19.—A 1947 tax rate of $47.00, seven dollars per thousand higher than the 1946 rate, is apparently in store for theatre owners here, Mayor James Fallon reveals, in submitting a record $4,000,000 budget to the city council.

Ask Radio Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Radio manufacturers prefer a cut in the Federal 10 per cent radio excise tax to a reduction in their own income taxes, Joseph Gerl, chairman, and A. H. Gardner, vice-chairman of the Radio Manufacturers Association, said.

Phoenix City Hearing

PHOENIX CITY, ALA., Feb. 19.—City commissioners have voted to hold a public hearing on Mayor D. Cobb's bitterly fought gross receipts tax plan, which substitutes a levy on income of theatres and other businesses for the license previously in effect.

Trust Law

(*Continued from page* 1)

forum meeting in New York on March 10-11. Myers declined to comment on arbitration, either voluntary or compulsory, although he indicated Allied may be opposed to both. He reiterated that Allied will call to the attention of the Interstate Commerce Commission the matter of the Chesapeake and Ohio's free showings of films on its trains.

UK Lifts Some Bans, But Not for Films

London, Feb. 19.—Despite Prime Minister Clement Attlee's announcement in the House of Commons lifting the power ban for factories and other commercial establishments in the Midland area, no relaxation is envisaged as yet on restrictions imposed upon the film industry, w[illegible] among other curtailm[illegible], prevent theatres from opening before four P.M. daily.

DeMille's Next May Be a Bible Story

Cecil B. DeMille plans to return to the Bible for source material for his next production following "Unconquered" and may use the story of Samson and Delilah, he said yesterday.

DeMille was guest of honor at a luncheon given by Paramount at the 21 Club, which was attended by trade press representatives and Paramount home office officials. Curtis Mitchell, advertising-publicity director of Paramount, presided.

Edward Fay To Be Honored at Dinner

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 19.—Edward M. Fay, veteran Rhode Island theatre man, will be honored at a testimonial dinner at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel here on May 5 by the Independent Exhibitors of Rhode Island for his 40-odd years in the industry. Dinner committee chairman Meyer Stanzler says that motion picture and stage notables will be invited "from Boston to Hollywood."

Honor Miss Kilgallen

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, will pay tribute to Dorothy Kilgallen, woman newspaper and radio columnist, for her work in promoting brotherhood, at the Hotel Astor, Tuesday evening, Feb. 25. James A. Farley will present the "Honor Scroll" to Miss Kilgallen. Jack H. Levin is Cinema president.

To Honor Smakwitz

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Charles A. Smakwitz, retiring chief barker, will be honored by the Variety Club at a dinner-dance in the De Witt Clinton Hotel, March 1. Smakwitz is assistant zone manager for Warner Theatres.

Happened in Harrisburg

One of the Allied Artists' trio of double-decked Fifth Avenue busses, starting a transcontinental trek to promote "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," broke down outside Harrisburg when a piston went through the engine block. The other two continued on schedule, while repairs are being rushed on the disabled coach.

Rosenthal to Monogram

Janet Rosenthal has succeeded Ralph Smith as head of the print department at Monogram's office here. She was in charge of prints for PRC for five years.

Eastman Plans Color Output in France

Eastman Kodak has plans for producing color film in France, E. P. (Ted) Curtis, EK vice-president, reveals upon his return to New York from a month's business trip to England and France. The company's plant in Vincennes, near Paris, is already turning out more raw stock than in pre-war days. Plans for the color film are being held in abeyance.

Also apparently consigned to the "future category" is Eastman's $2,000,000 expansion program in England, which will probably be blocked for a long time because of the tight building situation, although authorization for the reconditioning and expansion of the company's facilities has already been granted by the British government, the Eastman executive added.

The film output in France is adequate for that country's needs, and in England, where the company's plants have been "pretty badly hit" by the power restrictions, production has been curtailed but is managing to "keep its head above water," he asserted. Government requirements in England that a portion of raw stock be exported has handicapped somewhat the company's ability to keep pace with local needs, Curtis declared.

Stevens, Needelman Join Republic Here

Mary Stephens and Marvin Needelman have been assigned by Republic advertising-publicity manager Steve Edwards to pressbooks under advertising manager Dennis Carlin. Miss Stephens was formerly with Columbia, United Artists and PRC. Needelman, who will assist her, has been a Florida and New York newspaperman.

Would Have Houses Screen Floor Plan

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 19.—A bill introduced in the General Assembly would require motion picture theatres to display on the screen at least once each performance a diagram of the seating arrangement of each floor of the theatre, showing the location of each exit. The bill was referred to the Senate judiciary committee.

Fires Destroy Two

Two theatres in Arkansas, the Dixie in Mountain View, and the Bay Theatre, in Bay, were almost completely destroyed by fires. Derrick and McLinden, owners of the Dixie, are in Memphis to buy new supplies for reconstruction of the house.

Fire Ruins Memphian

MEMPHIS, Feb. 19.—A two-alarm fire has practically destroyed the Memphian Theater on Cooper Street. The Memphian is owned by Capitol Theater Co.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

Legion Classifies 18 Additional Pictures

National Legion of Decency has given A-I ratings to 12 of 18 pictures currently reviewed. Four were placed in Class A-II, and two, "Abenteuer im Grand Hotel," Heinrich Haas (German), and "Private Affairs of Bel Ami," United Artists, were given B ratings.

A-I pictures are: "Angel and the Badman," "Calendar Girl," and "Vigilantes of Boomtown," all Republic; "Death Valley" and "My Dog Shep," both Screen Guild; "Raiders of the South," "Riding the California Trail," "Vacation Days" and "Valley of Fear," all Monogram; "South of the Chisholm Trail," Columbia; "That Way With Women," Warners, and "Trail Street," RKO Radio.

A-II pictures are: "Before Him All Rome Trembled," Superfilm (Italian); "Boomerang," 20th Century-Fox; "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," Monogram; "Johnny O'Clock," Columbia. "13 Rue Madeleine," 20th Century-Fox, was reviewed again by the Legion and re-classified as B; it was originally classified A-I.

Professor Calls 50% Of Films 'Trash'

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 19.—Nearly half of the pictures witnessed by theatre patrons last year were "largely trash," but still twice as many persons attended films than churches of all denominations in the country during the year, according to Dr. Fred Eastman, professor of biography and drama in the Federated Theological Faculty at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Eastman said 50 per cent of the pictures produced in 1946 were mediocre and that only five per cent could be classified as excellent. Among the five per cent, he said, were "The Best Years of Our Lives" and "Henry V." "Decency in films is not enough," he concluded. "A picture can be decent and still be inane, stupid and worthless."

Goodman Will Confer On Conditions Abroad

Conferences with Irving Maas, vice-president and general manager of the Motion Picture Export Association, rank high on Morris Goodman's schedule, the former MPEA head in Berlin reveals here, after having returned from a year-and-a-half abroad for the MPEA. Goodman, who asserted that the next few months would see distribution in Germany turned over by the Army to the U.S. film industry, said that he would have no further statements to make about his work and observations abroad until he has conferred with Maas.

The former MPEA chief in Berlin resigned from his post a few months ago.

Sparrow in New Loew Job

ATLANTA, Feb. 19.—Allen Sparrow, recently manager of Loew's Theatres in Ohio and Pennsylvania, has arrived here to set up headquarters for his new job as Loew Southern division manager, succeeding William A. Finney, who is retiring to live in Florida.

Stage Shows for Palace

CLEVELAND, Feb. 19.—RKO Palace, committed to a straight picture policy since mid-December, will resume stage shows starting March 6 and continue as long as headliners are available.

Tennessee to Extend Film Censorship

MEMPHIS, Feb. 19.—Censorship of motion pictures and stage shows by a board similar to the one operating here would be extended to Shelby County under a local bill introduced in the Tennessee legislature today by the Shelby County delegation.

After going through the routine process of being passed three times, local bills, which are not opposed as a matter of practice, become law.

ATLANTA, Feb. 19.—Christine Smith, Atlanta censor, has been upheld in the banning of one new film, but overruled in her objections to another.

Trustees of the Carnegie Library, official board of review, agrees with Miss Smith's opinion that "Swell Guy," Universal-International release is objectionable but decided that Warner's "The Beast with Five Fingers," should be approved.

HARTFORD, Feb. 19.—A State Senate bill creating a board of censors to pass on all films intended for exhibition to children will come up before the Legislature's judiciary committee on Friday for a hearing, to be held in the State Capitol here.

Similar bills are pending elsewhere, to regulate film-fare for youngsters.

Mitchell to Study US Film Publicity

A study of American publicity techniques for adaptation to British conditions, with allowances for the "reserved British temperament", is described as the purpose of his visit to the United States by Leslie Mitchell, director of publicity in England for Sir Alexander Korda. Mitchell will leave New York for Hollywood on Feb. 28 where he will remain for two weeks before heading back to London on March 22.

With parts of "Bonny Prince Charlie", starring David Niven, already shot, production on two Korda productions, Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband", and Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina," will start April 1 and 15, respectively.

Price Leaves

(*Continued from page* 1)

splendid thing for the United Nations but it is a tremendous loss to the motion picture industry. He was drafted for the post and had no choice except to heed this call to world public service.

"We regret his leaving but the efforts of the United Nations to insure a peaceful world take precedence over the needs of a particular industry. In fact, unless this effort at world cooperation and understanding is successful, we shall all be the losers.

"Mr. Price by background, temperament and experience is ideally equipped for his new duties. He has a broad knowledge of world affairs and a unique appreciation of the need for keeping open the channels of information among peoples. Mr. Price leaves the motion picture industry with the respect and hearty good wishes of all who were associated with him."

FCC's Denny Will Address IRE Mar. 5

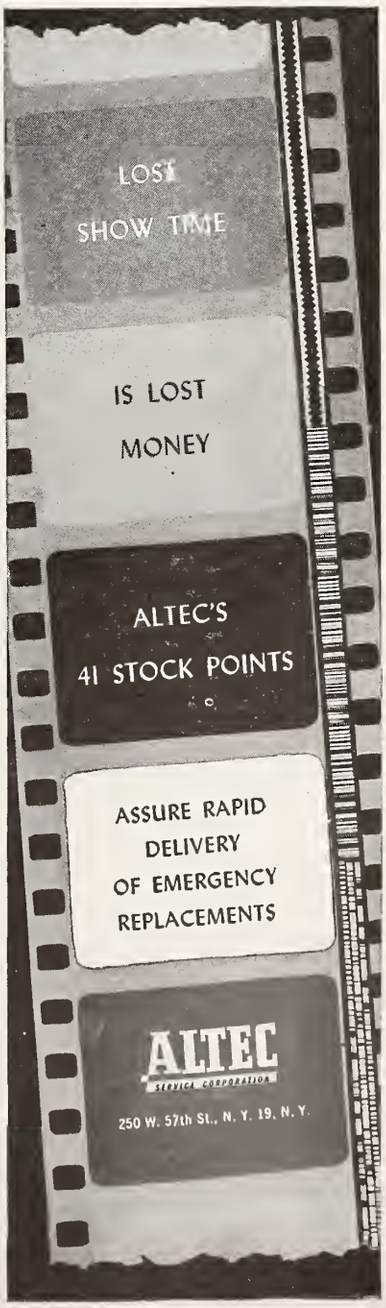
Charles E. Denny, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will be the featured speaker at the annual banquet of the Institute of Radio Engineers' 1947 national convention, to be held in New York March 3-6. The banquet will be Wednesday evening, March 5, in the Hotel Commodore. Frederick R. Lack, vice-president of Western Electric, will be toastmaster.

The Institute medal of honor, the Morris Liebman memorial prizes, the Browder J. Thompson memorial award, and fellowships given by the Institute will be announced at the banquet.

On Tuesday, March 4, the incoming president of the Institute, Dr. W. R. G. Baker, vice-president in charge of research of General Electric, will be honored.

B. & Q. Acquires Two

HARTFORD, Feb. 19.—The B. and Q. Circuit of Boston has acquired the Warr Theatre, Wareham, Mass., and the Temple Theatre at Onset.



Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CHICAGO

"Sinbad the Sailor" is substantially in the lead, while business is above average at most houses. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 19-20:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 8th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $12,000)
JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.) — CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) On stage: Bob Crosby and orchestra. 2nd week. Gross: $55,000. (Average: $60,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—GARRICK (1,000) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $13,000)
SINBAD, THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (95c) Gross: $40,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) On stage: Clyde McCoy and orchestra. 3rd week. Gross: $43,000. (Average: $45,000)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and CODE OF THE WEST (RKO Radio)—PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c) Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000)
THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and SHADOW OF A WOMAN (WB)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c) 8th week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $29,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOOD'S (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1-80) 9th week. Gross: $41,000. (Average: $20,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Grosses are moderate here this week. The weather has been mild. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 18-19:

CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and THE MYSTERIOUS MR. VALENTINE (Rep.)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,700)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,800)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $14,400)
THE BOWERY (20th-Fox reissue) and SUN VALLEY SERENADE (20th-Fox reissue) — LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,700)

KANSAS CITY

Above-average and below-average grosses are about evenly divided. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 18-20:

TEMPTATION (U-I) — ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,000)
TEMPTATION (U-I) — FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,750)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days, with one-night preview. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,000)
THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,000)
TEMPTATION (U-I) — UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)

Reviews

"Trail Street"

(RKO Radio)

THE extent to which a routine Western script can be developed into high calibre action-adventure screen fare through directorial know-how, good casting and deft editing is amply demonstrated in "Trail Street," a razzle-dazzle, shoot-'em-up cowboy picture obviously designed to court favor also with filmgoers whose tastes are somewhat more sophisticated than those of rank-and-file "horse-opera" devotees. And as far as the rank-and-filers themselves are concerned they will go for this one. The heroes and the villains are clearly defined, romance plays second fiddle to blood-and-thunder elements, and the desperadoes pay heavily in the end for their high-handedness and cruelty.

The cast is headed by Randolph Scott, Robert Ryan, Anne Jeffreys and bewhiskered George (Gabby) Hayes, the last named seldom having been seen to better advantage. The story has all the transparency and standardization common to most Westerns, but uncommon verve appears to have been devoted to the telling of how Scott, in the role of a U. S. Marshall, steps in to join a few right-minded citizens of a Kansas frontier town in replacing lawlessness with law and order. It was tough going all the way, however, because villains Steve Brodie, Billy House and Harry Woods were most ruthless in their efforts to drive out the area's wheat farmers and thereby establish preference for their cattle interests. "And that's how Kansas became a great wheat-growing state," the film says in effect. Miss Jeffreys, in the role of a saloon hostess, sings some pleasant tunes and shares feminine love interest with Madge Meredith. Scott, Ryan and all of the others do very nicely with their assignments, and certainly the same can be said for producer Nat Holt, executive producer Jack J. Gross, and director Ray Enright. Norman Houston and Gene Lewis wrote an exciting, fast-moving screenplay, based on a novel by William Corcoran.

Running time, 84 minutes. General audience classification. For April release.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Law of the Lash"

(Producers Releasing)

THE Cheyenne Kid (Al La Rue) has his hands full in dealing with a gang of badmen in a standardized Western that will probably meet requirements of the market.

Al (Fuzzy) St. John is La Rue's comic pal in a yarn which opens with a stagecoach holdup and develops along familiar lines right through to the bang-up climax when the culprits are coralled. The original screenplay by William L. Nolte takes its title from the fact that La Rue is a dangerous man with a lash, which he uses in close combat with a gun-toting gang leader. Jerry Thomas produced, Rex Taylor directed and Lee Roberts, Mary Scott, Jack O'Shea, Charles King and Carl Mathews are in the support.

Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 22.

GENE ARNEEL

SAN FRANCISCO

"Till the Clouds Roll By" is setting the pace, while business for other films is just fair. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 21:

TEMPTATION (U-I) and SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.) — ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $14,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and CALENDAR GIRL (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average, for 7 days: $32,000)
BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW (Col.)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) With vaudeville. 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $32,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and CODE OF THE WEST (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $23,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and CODE OF THE WEST (RKO Radio)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 4 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average, for 7 days: $6,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and INVISIBLE INFORMER (Rep.)—STATE (2,135) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $13,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and DANGEROUS BUSINESS (Col.)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $14,000)
ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA) and DETOUR (PRC reissue)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $14,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $39,000. (Average: $27,000)

ST. LOUIS

"The Jolson Story" was almost as strong in its second week as in the first. Most other films grossed slightly below average. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 19:

TEMPTATION (U-I) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $17,000. Average: $18,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $19,000. (Average: $20,000)
GALLANT BESS (M-G-M) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.) — LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $28,000. Average: $20,000)
IF I HAD MY WAY (U-I reissue) and SHADOW OF A DOUBT (U-I reissue)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c) Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I) and FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.) — ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000).

Plymouth Curtails

PLYMOUTH, O., Feb. 19.—The Plymouth, only theatre here, will be dark on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, it has been announced by Ed Ramsey, owner-operator of the house. A drop in business presumably is the reason.

6 Millions in New Mexican Capital

MEXICO, CITY, Feb. 19.—Producers financial difficulties, which became acute when major banks stopped lending them money, appear to be ended with the organization here of the Credito Cinematografico Mexicano by American-Mexican interests, the prime purpose of which is to adequately finance the industry here. Credito is capitalized at $6,000,000. It was organized by Manuel Echeverria, prominent exhibitor, and will function in association with such prominent local banks as the Banco Internacional, Banco Mexicano, Banco de Industria and Banco de Industria y Comercio.

Credito's principal stockholders are Theodore Gildred, American studio and theatre operator, Producciones Grovas, producers, and Gen. Abelardo L. Rodriguez, ex-president of Mexico and now governor of Sonora State. Board members include Gildred, Jesus Grovas, president of Producciones Grovas, and Luis Montes de Oca, former minister of finance.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 19.—Monterrey, Northeastern industrial center, near the Texas border, is to be another center for Mexican feature production. The government has authorized Ancia Films of Monterrey, to import equipment for production, which is to start soon. Ancia has been producing newsreels in Northern Mexico.

MEXICO, CITY, Feb. 19.—The Federal Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is striving to avert a strike threatened against all theatres in Chiapas State, prosperous Guatemalan border zone, by the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union to enforce demands for wage increases of 25 to 60 per cent.

'Campus Boom' by This Is America

The latest film in the This Is America series examines dramatically the problems that confront the new "G. I." Joe in his march to higher education.

Focusing attention on Syracuse University, a typical institution in Upstate New York, the camera shows how every type of temporary housing has been pressed into service to ease the shortage of classrooms and dormitories, with quonset huts, barracks, dining halls and trailers providing shelter for the veterans and their families. Running time, 16 minutes.

Ten Premieres for Warners' 'Pursued'

Simultaneous premieres in 10 New England houses on March 5 have been set by Warners for "Pursued," United States Pictures production. Included in the pre-release dates, which will precede the New York Strand opening on March 7, are the Capitol, Springfield; Strand, Newburyport; Strand, Hartford; Warner and Merritt, Bridgeport; State, Waterbury; Garde, New London; Palace, South Norwalk; Warner, Torrington; Palace, Norwich; Smoot, Parkersburg.

Eagle-Lion Changes

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Arthur B. Johnson, Eagle-Lion assistant secretary-treasurer, has been promoted to chief fiscal officer for the West Coast.

3 Appeals

(*Continued from page* 1)

as against "arbitrarily refusing" to license a feature upon a run selected by an exhibitor. Paramount's appeal, probably centering its attack on the decree's partial divestiture clause, is expected to be filed soon after the government's, regardless of whether any of the other four theatre-owning defendants join in such action. An appeal by 20th Century-Fox has been reported as "unlikely," while RKO, Loew's and Warners have been reticent about their plans.

Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, yesterday dispatched the government's appeal to the Department of Justice's New York office and attorney Harold Lasser expects to enter it in Federal Court here this morning. The document, besides seeking full divorcement, probably will ask for a ban on cross-licensing during whatever period the high tribunal might grant the producer-distributors in which to dispose of their theatres, should divorcement be ordered.

Cooke to File Appeal

The Universal appeal will be filed this morning by Thomas Turner Cooke, special counsel for the company, who prepared the document in collaboration with Charles D. Prutzman, general counsel. The UA appeal, prepared by the law firm of O'Brien, Driscoll, Raftery and Lawler, will be filed in mid-afternoon. Both companies seek to upset all of the New York court's rulings against them, thus bringing under fire every decree provision except those applying to the defendants as exhibitors.

UA, claiming 80 errors in the decree, findings of fact and conclusions of law handed down by Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright, will appeal from nine basic provisions of the court's judgment, including single sales, competitive bidding, the price-fixing ban, agreements on clearance systems, clearance between theatres not in substantial competition, distributor burden in the proof of "reasonable clearance" and the injunctions against franchise agreements, formula deals, master agreements, and the "arbitrary" refusal of some run.

Comprehensive Attack

Universal, in a similarly comprehensive attack, will claim the court erred, as follows:

In finding that Universal combined, or conspired and agreed with the other distributor defendants or any of them, to fix and maintain minimum admission prices and that the company, by requiring the maintenance as a minimum of current admission prices and by fixing differentials in run between the various runs in a competitive area, attempted to give prior-run exhibitors as near a monopoly as possible.

In finding that Universal, in the case of exceptional features, refused to grant licenses unless the exhibitors raised their current prices. In finding that the company commonly specified clearances in terms of clearances fixed by other distributors and that its purpose in granting clearances was to protect particular runs against subsequent runs and not to augment its own revenue from its copyrights in a legal manner.

In finding that Universal acted in concert with other defendants in the granting of runs.

In finding that the company's master agreements and franchises unreasonably restrained interstate commerce, and in passing upon the legality of Universal's franchises with independent exhibitors, "which was not an issue in the case."

In finding that the company for many years licensed its films in blocks or indivisible groups, if by such finding it was intended to find that Universal ever conditioned the selling of one or more of its pictures upon the purchaser's taking some or all of the remainder.

Conclusion Unjustified

In enjoining Universal from agreeing with the other defendants and exhibitors to maintain a system of clearances, "in view of the fact that the evidence does not justify the conclusion that Universal so acted."

In decreeing that, to the extent that any of Universal's pictures have not been trade shown prior to granting a license for more than a single picture, the licensee shall be given the right to reject 20 per cent of those not trade shown.

In decreeing that, while the producer-exhibitor defendants may license or in any way arrange or provide for the exhibition of their pictures in their own theatres, upon such terms and subject to such conditions as are satisfactory to them, Universal may not acquire show windows through long-term contractual arrangements with independent theatres.

In failing to find that Universal, as a producer and distributor without theatres, would have no reliable market for the great majority of its pictures it offered singly.

In failing to find that Universal has a reliable market in the otherwise under-supplied exhibitor for a large group of pictures of the less expensive type, and that such exhibitors, constituting most of the exhibitors in the country, desire to purchase their pictures in large groups, as it gives them assurance of product.

In failing to find that Universal ever required exhibitors, who did not care to buy all its pictures, to pay an excessive or disproportionate price for what they bought.

In decreeing that Universal shall follow a method of competitive bidding which compels the licensor to determine the highest bid under penalty of contempt, yet prescribes a method for offers and counter-offers which makes such determination impracticable.

In receiving in evidence as against Universal awards of arbitrators and the decisions of the Appeal Board.

Universal's statement of jurisdiction will contend, with regard to the New York court's price-fixing ban that "a distributor, licensing under copyright, without passing title to any tangible object, might properly obtain from the licensee a covenant against change in position in respect to admission prices."

Field Grosses Below '46

(*Continued from page* 1)

averaged $22,024. Business dropped steadily, but not alarmingly, during the next three weeks, standing at a $17,294 average for the week ended Jan. 25. Then it took a jump, to $18,197, for the week ended Feb. 1. Each week ran below the corresponding one in 1946, despite increased admission prices, the lag ranging between about $200 and $1,000 per theatre.

"Till the Clouds Roll By" appeared most often as the box-office leader in the January reports but led "Blue Skies" only by a narrow margin. "The Razor's Edge" also crashed through to leadership on an impressive number of occasions, while "The Jolson Story" was a strong contender.

Other films which performed outstandingly in numerous situations were: "13 Rue Madeleine," "The Best Years of Our Lives," "The Yearling," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "The Bachelor's Daughters," "Song of the South," "Deception," "The Runaround," "The Secret Heart," "Betty Co-Ed," "Humoresque," "Two Years Before the Mast," "The Time, the Place and the Girl," "Henry V," "Gallant Bess," "Notorious," "Duel in the Sun," "Somewhere in the Night," "Swell Guy," "Nocturne," "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Dark Mirror," "Undercurrent," "Magnificent Doll" and "Two Little Girls in Blue."

Composite key-city box office reports for 1947, compared with the corresponding weeks of 1946, follow:

1947 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 3-4	167	$3,678,100	$22,024
Jan. 10-11	173	3,363,200	19,440
Jan. 17-18	173	3,007,300	17,383
Jan. 24-25	176	3,043,700	17,294
Jan. 31—Feb. 1	181	3,293,600	18,197

1946 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 4-5	142	$3,304,300	$23,270
Jan. 11-12	144	2,940,100	20,417
Jan. 18-19	150	2,706,300	18,040
Jan. 25-26	158	2,800,100	17,722
Feb. 1-2	157	2,227,000	18,390

Philco Appoints Oelkers

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19.—Appointment of Wilson Oelkers as purchasing agent of the radio division of Philco Corp. was announced here by William MacMurtrie, general purchasing agent. At the same time, George Hulse was named assistant to the general purchasing agent and Louis H. Niemann assistant purchasing agent of the radio division.

'Lives' Capital Benefit

The Washington Committee for Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine, of which Mrs. Harry Truman is honorary chairman, will sponsor a benefit preview of Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" at Washington's RKO Keith's Theatre, March 11, prior to the picture's Washington premiere on March 12.

KSD-TV Starts with 12

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 19.—Twelve advertisers purchased time on KSD-TV, St. Louis' first television station, during its first week of operation. A total of 51 programs were produced.

Metro News in UK Ass'n

Metro News, M-G-M's international newsreel for distribution outside the U. S. and Canada, has been admitted to membership in the Newsreel Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

Schlaifer Tour

(*Continued from page* 1)

tion, he said, adding that the amount of time spent in any one place is subject to local conditions.

Devised as a method for intensifying contacts on specific local problems and box-office trends as a springboard for local campaigns, the trips keeping department heads of the home office promotional division in "constant movement throughout the field," will enable the promotional executives to measure the effectiveness of their drives not only through 20th-Fox salesmen but also exhibitor clients, Schlaifer explained.

The Western and Northwestern states have been covered since the new policy went into effect some five months ago, Schlaifer continued, but those, and the scheduled Southern journey, will not bar future tours of areas visited because the plan, as conceived, emphasizes continuous contact.

Among 1947 pictures on which Schlaifer will consult with field men and exhibitors to map advertising-publicity approaches from a local angle are: "Boomerang," "Homestretch," "The Late George Apley," "Carnival in Costa Rica" and "Bob, Son of Battle." At the same time, he will aid in sketching plans for future releases, such as "Forever Amber," "The Captain from Castile," "Miracle on 34th Street" and others of the 20 films on 20th-Fox's 1947 schedule.

20th-Fox Meet Ends

(*Continued from page* 1)

return trips, while divisional and district sales managers remained in New York for further meetings with Skouras, Connors and William J. Kupper, general sales manager.

At yesterday morning's session Andrew W. Smith, Jr., Eastern division sales manager, and Kupper discussed the sale of short subjects. Included in the company's 1947 short subject schedule, Kupper announced, are: 20 Movietones, comprised of 11 "Adventures," seven "Sportsreels" and two Lew Lehr comedies, and in addition, 20 "Terrytoons," 13 March of Time subjects, plus the usual 104 issues of Movietone News.

Roosevelt Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the first picture, are among matters to be determined, they revealed in a press conference at the Hollywood Athletic Club.

Roosevelt, who will not actually be part of the producing firm, said, "While we do not believe the time has yet arrived when a full-scale definitive biography of the President may be told in its total perspective, the Roosevelt family has always been willing to help in bringing any dramatic episodes out of his career to the screen."

Screen Guild Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

day session, executives attending to include John J. Jones, president; Robert L. Lippert, vice-president; Francis A. Bateman, general sales manager.

Producers releasing through Screen Guild who will address the meeting include Morris Nunes, Screen Arts Pictures; Samuel K. Decker, Hillcrest Productions; J. S. Burkett and William Berke.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Jan. 25	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.		VACATION DAYS Freddie Stewart June Preisser M—611	THE PERFECT MARRIAGE Loretta Young David Niven D—87 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Eagle-Lion) IT'S A JOKE, SON Kenny Delmar Una Merkel C—64 mins. (Rev. 1/21/47)	TRAIL TO SAN ANTONE Gene Autry O—67	(Liberty Special) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE James Stewart Donna Reed D—130 mins. (781) (Rev. 12/19/46)			(Jan. Releases) SWELL GUY (Rev. 12/5/46)	HUMORESQUE Joan Crawford John Garfield D—125 mins. (612) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 1	SOUTH OF CHISHOLM TRAIL Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette				(Eagle-Lion) BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)	SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	I'LL BE YOURS (Rev. 1/20/47) THE WICKED LADY (Rev. 12/9/46)	
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)			SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild D—72 mins.	(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D—100 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.			ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich O—100 mins. (Rev. 2/6/47)	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)			
Feb. 22	THE LONE HAND TEXAN Charles Starrett O	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)	HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (Reissue) (Rev. 10/29/41)	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY. Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey Janet Blair		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1			THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)			(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8		(March Releases) (Special) THE YEARLING (Color) Gregory Peck Jane Wyman D—134 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)	HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas	EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders	(Reissue) WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15		BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)	TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown						(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22			SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore			(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29			VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY			(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	
April 5				MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker	TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR			(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)		

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dran (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

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VOL. 61. NO. 36 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1947 | TEN CENTS

UA, 'U' Attack Bidding Order In N.Y. Decree

Court Lacked Authority To Dictate It, They Say

By GENE ARNEEL

In separate appeals filed here yesterday, both Universal and United Artists charge that the New York Federal Court lacks the authority to dictate competitive bidding as the basis of distributor-exhibitor sales operations.

They submit that while the Sherman Act provides for injunctions against trade operations found illegal, it does not permit a court to prescribe affirmative ways of doing business. This is a legislative function, not a judicial one, the companies declare.

Both Universal and United Artists ask for complete reversal of all parts of the New York decision which applies to them, thus excluding only those provisions covering theatre oper-

(*Continued on page* 8)

ATA, CSA Counsel Confer on Appeal

Thurman Arnold of Washington, counsel for the American Theatre Association, and Col. Robert T. Barton of Richmond, Va., counsel for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, have been meeting here this week to finalize plans for an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the New York Federal District Court's denial of their petitions to intervene in the industry anti-trust suit.

The ATA-CSA appeal, probably to be made in collaboration with the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, which joined in

(*Continued on page* 7)

Local Theatre Tax Possible in N. Y.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Governor Dewey is considering asking the Legislature for broader local taxing powers, including the possible imposition of theatre levies. The increased revenue would be for school teacher pay increases.

Republic Has Wide Expansion Program For Foreign Lands

Five new offices abroad, in countries still to be disclosed, will be established by Republic International, under the guidance of Richard W. Altschuler, president and general manager of that Republic Pictures subsidiary, who also reports that the company's pictures may, additionally, soon play in a number of countries in Russian orbit. Also, the company is in the process of acquiring a number of French and Italian films for Latin American distribution.

This Republic distribution setup abroad now has its films in all European countries handled by foreign distributors. In England Republic distributes through British-Lion and in Franceand Belgium Republic films are handled by Laudy Lawrence, former sales head for Sir Alexander Korda. The company also has representatives in Greece, Spain, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, China and the Philippines. It soon will be repre-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Industry Protest Of Ad Bill Pends

Indications are that the organized industry will file a brief with New York's Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in protest against the Condon-Wilson advertising bill which has passed both houses of the New York legislature and has been sent to the Governor for signature or veto, it was disclosed here yesterday following a meeting of the Eastern Public Information Committee at which a discussion of the re-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Loew's Working on Appeal Document

Indication that Loew's probably will appeal from the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit appeared here yesterday when it became known that the law firm of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland and Kiendl, special counsel for the company, is preparing a "Statement of Jurisdiction," which will be part of an appeal.

Among the theatre-owning defendants, Paramount is the only one so far on record as definitely planning to carry the case to the Supreme Court; 20th Century-Fox is understood to be unlikely to do so, while RKO and Warners have been reticent about disclosing their intentions.

French Firms Lost $7,694,000 in '46

By MAURICE BESSY

PARIS, Feb. 16 (By Airmail).—A $7,694,000 loss which French producers suffered during 1946, the establishment of a new government cinema office to replace two former ones, and a five per cent reduction in admissions are the most important developments in the French industry since the beginning of the year.

During 1946, 91 feature films were produced in France at a total cost of 2,416,000,000 francs—about $20,294,000, and it is estimated that after deduction of taxes and renters' charges, no more than 1,500,000,000 francs, including revenue from foreign sales,

(*Continued on page* 7)

British Theatres Facing Shutdown Within Month

LONDON, Feb. 20.—With the output of raw stock seriously cut down and processing plants in this country reduced to 40 per cent of their normal production by the coal crisis, exhibitors fear a complete shutdown of theatres within a month unless drastic steps are taken to ameliorate the situation.

The gravity of the problem was brought home to the industry today at a special meeting of production, distribution and theatre interests called by the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association. Those present were startled to learn that Eastman Kodak, the largest raw stock producer in England has been forced to curtail operations here drastically for the past two weeks and has little hope of increasing the output until the government releases coal.

The Ilford plant and other principal suppliers are in only a slightly better position. Although not producing negative, they have approximately a seven-week backlog of positive on

(*Continued on page* 7)

US Appeal Is Seen Hitting All Clearance

Actual Filing, However, Is Delayed to Today

By TOM LOY

Contending that the New York Federal District Court erred in finding that "reasonable clearance" is essential to the distribution and exhibition of motion pictures, the Department of Justice today will ask the U. S. Supreme Court to prohibit the eight defendants in the industry anti-trust suit from making any clearance agreements in the future, according to partial information in film circles here.

Filing of the Department's appeal, originally scheduled for yesterday, was held up through delay in receiving the original copy of the "Statement of Jurisdiction," signed by Acting Solicitor General George T. Washington. The documents now are expected to be placed on file with the clerk of

(*Continued on page* 8)

Para. Will Sell Six Films on One Form

Stressing that Paramount will adhere to the provisions of the New York Federal Court decision requiring product to be offered and sold picture-by-picture and theatre-by-theatre, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, yesterday announced adoption by the company of one contract form to cover all six of the Pine-Thomas productions

(*Continued on page* 8)

AMPP Vote Bans Free Air Interviews

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20.—The Association of Motion Picture Producers' radio sub-committee unanimously decided at its regular meeting today that hereafter no "big name" motion picture player can be furnished by any major studio for a free radio interview. The decision permits carrying out pending commitments through March 15.

In This Issue

"Ramrod" and "Code of the West" are reviewed on page 4.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM

MR. WALTER WINCHELL'S widely syndicated column of Monday, February 17, reports:

"M-G-M dropped 9,000 staffers all over the U. S. More to go."

M-G-M staffers all over the U. S. total between 6,500 and 7,000!

▽

The topper of all accusations hurled down through the years at the motion picture now comes from the Optical Membership Plan of New York, which charges that several recent films have, by poking fun at eyeglass wearers, contributed to "optical delinquency," dissuading impressionable persons from wearing glasses. MPA president Eric Johnston has been notified of the gravity of the situation, in writing, by Mrs. Leila Ricard Ettinger, founder of the Optical Plan. One picture cited by the good lady is Warner's "The Big Sleep."

▽

Wometo (Miami) Theatres' house publication resurrects the yarn about the morning Mark Twain, dressed in bathrobe and slippers lazily crossed the street to the home of a neighbor. Mark dropped into comfortable rocking chair, smoked for a spell, then said, "Nice morning."

"Very pleasant," replied the neighbor.

"Wouldn't be surprised if we had rain, though."

"We could stand some."

"How's the family?" asked Twain.

"Oh, we're all fine."

Twain crossed his legs, blew a puff from his pipe into the air, then remarked in a long drawl, "Well, I suppose you are a little surprised to see me so early in the morning, but I thought you might be interested to know that your roof is on fire."

▽

Eugene Malson of Alton, Ill., works in the city's street department by day and answers emergency calls by night. Consequently, he hasn't been to a motion picture theatre in 25 years—that is, until the other night. But just as he eased himself into his seat at the local opry house to see his first film in a quarter-century, his name was flashed on the screen. A tornado had struck nearby and he was needed at once. On the screen was Warner's "Night and Day."

▽

We have David (RCA) Sarnoff's word for it that his company's radio gadgets have radar-signaled contacts to the moon and back—a mere 480,000 miles in both directions, taking only two seconds each way. Sarnoff envisions using the moon and planets to mirror television pictures.

▽

You can take that vacation trip to Europe this summer. The State Department says so—provided you can prove possession of a guaranteed return passage, hotel reservations or other accommodations and a guarantee of food while abroad.

Personal Mention

MARY PICKFORD plans to leave New York for Hollywood tomorrow if she has sufficiently recovered from a cold that has kept her confined to her hotel here.

•

OSCAR F. NEU, president of Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers' Association, has returned to New York from the Coast. Tomorrow he and L. E. JONES of Neumade Products are scheduled to fly to Montreal.

•

PAUL ENGLER of Famous Theatres, Birmingham; HAP BARNES of Drive-In Theatres, Montgomery, Ala., and MR. and MRS. CHARLES ROOK, former owners of the Charles Theatre, Montgomery, have been Atlanta visitors.

•

HARRY A. BERK, vice-president of the international division of Foote, Cone and Belding Advertising Agency here, is en route to England on the *Queen Elizabeth.*

•

MRS. RAY COLLINS, secretary to Universal-International's Atlanta branch manager, who has been with Universal 12 years, has resigned effective March 1.

•

THOMAS HYDE, former Gainesville, Fla., theatre manager, is now manager of the Vero Theatre, Vero Beach, Fla.

•

JOE ISENHOWER, manager of the Hamlet Theatre, Hamlet, N. C., is the father of a new-born baby boy.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY is scheduled to arrive in New York today following a three weeks visit in Hollywood.

•

RICHARD MORGAN, Paramount attorney, is scheduled to leave Hollywood for New York on Feb. 28.

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, head head of M-G-M's exploitation department, is due to return here from Chicago on Monday.

•

JAMES E. PERKINS, managing director of Paramount in the United Kingdom, and FRANK FARLEY, Paramount foreign production representative, with MRS. FARLEY, are en route to England on the *Queen Elizabeth.*

•

SAL ASARO, secretary to Paramount secretary ROBERT O'BRIEN, has been decorated by the Belgian Government "for exceptional war services" rendered that country.

•

SIDNEY G. ALEXANDER, motion picture account executive of Brisacher, Van Norden and Staff advertising agency, is scheduled to arrive here today from the Coast.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern district manager, and ED HINCHY, head of the playdate department, will be in Pittsburgh for the weekend.

•

HARRY MONSON, Ampro Projector Corp.'s vice-president and sales director, has returned to Chicago from the Coast.

•

JACOB WILK, Eastern production head of Warner Brothers, will leave New York today for the Coast.

•

R. M. KENNEDY, Wilby-Kincey circuit manager, and MRS. KENNEDY have returned to Birmingham from a vacation in Cuba.

•

MAURICE CHEVALIER, now in England, is due to arrive in New York on March 5.

Bernard Lewis Name Assistant to Horne

Bernard Lewis, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for Story Productions, with headquarters here, has been appointed executive assistant to Hal Horne, vice-president in charge of production, in Hollywood. Lewis, who will concern himself primarily with coordinating production with world-wide advertising, publicity and exploitation plans for Story, will leave New York for Hollywood within two weeks to assume his new duties.

Simultaneously, Lewis announced the appointment of Bob Montgomery as Eastern director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for Story. Montgomery until recently was with the J. Arthur Rank Organization for two years, one of which he spent in England directing publicity for Rank films released in the United States.

RKO Remodeling

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—The RKO-Palace Theatre here, 2,500-seat Loop house, is undergoing complete remodeling and will be completed early next year at a cost of $250,000. Work is going on while the theatre remains open.

Keith in Editorial Post of SMPE

Clyde R. Keith, New York engineering representative of Western Electric's Electrical Research Products division, has been elected editorial vice-president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. In this post he will decide on questions of policy in connection with the publication of the Journal of the Society and supervise the work of the papers committee which procures technical papers to be presented at SMPE conventions and eventually to appear in the Journal.

Eight More from Dean

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20. — Producer Releasing Corp. has signed Eddie Dean to star in eight more productions between March, 1947 and March, 1948. Jerry Thomas will produce. He appeared in eight for the same company in 1946.

'Blaze' Tradeshow Here

Paramount will tradeshow "Blaze of Noon" in New York on Monday, March 3, the day before the film's world premiere at the Rivoli Theatre here. The screening will be at the Normandie Theatre.

George in WB Post

Doug George, who worked in the Warner circuit's New York, Philadelphia, and Cleveland offices before the war, has joined L. J. Halper's Warner Theatres' publicity department on the Coast as exploiteer. He succeeds Bill Hendrix, now with Alex Evelove's WB studio publicity department.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HELD OVER M-G-M's 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
IN PERSON RICHARD HIMBER and ORCH.

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN · SONNY TUFTS
in "EASY COME, EASY GO"
A Paramount Picture
in Person THE INK SPOTS ELLA FITZGERALD TIP TAP & TOE STUMP & STUMPY Extra! COOTIE WILLIAMS His Trumpet And His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

Betty GRABLE - Dick HAYMES
"THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture In Technicolor
PLUS ON STAGE — PETER LORRE
GIL LAMB - Extra! EVELYN KNIGHT
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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PRODUCERS RELEASING CORPORATION
is privileged to bring back these

SCREEN MASTERPIECES

Produced by Edward Small with great stars of current box-office stature . . . magnificent in production . . . celebrated in titles, these nine famed pictures will be made available during the 1947-48 season through the nationwide sales organization of Producers Releasing Corporation.

"KIT CARSON"
starring Dana Andrews, Jon Hall and Lynn Bari

"THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK"
starring Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett, Warren William and Joseph Schildkraut

"THE SON OF MONTE CRISTO"
starring Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett, George Sanders

"THE CORSICAN BROTHERS"
starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Ruth Warrick, Akim Tamiroff

"THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS"
starring Randolph Scott, Binnie Barnes, Henry Wilcoxon

"MY SON, MY SON"
starring Madeleine Carroll, Brian Aherne, Louis Hayward and Laraine Day

"SOUTH OF PAGO PAGO"
starring Victor McLaglen, Jon Hall, Frances Farmer

"THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO"
starring Robert Donat and Elissa Landi

"INTERNATIONAL LADY"
starring George Brent, Ilona Massey and Basil Rathbone

"KIT CARSON" AND "THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS" AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING NOW!

Oklahoma Industry Fears New Taxes

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 20.—Industry leaders are fearful of a bill which is expected to be introduced in the Legislature to extend city tax powers in Oklahoma. Advocating the measure in conferences with state lawmakers and Gov. Roy J. Turner is Mayor Lee Price of Tulsa. Tulsa had a 10 per cent amusement tax up for consideration last year, but it was killed when attorneys advised against it.

Although Price did not refer to an amusement tax specifically, the measure he has drawn up and hopes to have introduced in the assembly might clear the way for such levies. Price said that Tulsa is in desperate need of from $400,000 to $500,000 in additional tax revenues yearly.

AMPA Nominating Committee Named

A committee of seven was appointed here yesterday to nominate officers of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers. The election will be held on April 3.

Robert Wile was named chairman of the committee, which also includes David Bader, Leon J. Bamberger, Vincent Trotta, Blanche Livingston, Chester Friedman and Evelyn Koleman, with Lige Brien and Hap Hadley as alternates. They were chosen at a business meeting presided over by Rutgers Neilson, and were instructed to present a slate at an open meeting on March 6, when editors and publishers of fan magazines will be honored.

In order to allow the incoming officers to be installed on April 23, at the 30th anniversary dinner-dance of AMPA, the organization has voted to advance the annual meeting and election from the fourth Thursday in April to the first, April 3.

Detroit Variety Club Gives to Cancer Fund

DETROIT, Feb. 20.—Variety Club Tent No. 5 held its annual inauguration ceremonies in the Hotel Tuller this week, with Arthur Robinson becoming chief barker. Robert Coyne, William McCraw, Mayor Edward J. Jeffreys and Gov. Kim Sigler delivered addresses, and a check for $90,000 was presented to the Southeastern division of the American Cancer Society by retiring chief barker Arvid Kantor.

Film Classics Gets Its 13th Exchange

Film Classics has acquired its St. Louis franchise from Andy Dietz, its fourth recent addition. The company now has 13 wholly-owned branches in more than half the country.

Samuel N. Wheeler, Film Classics' sales manager, is now en route to St. Louis, from here, with David Wiener, company comptroller. Wiener will install new organizational policies.

Henry Herbert, 68

British-born actor Henry Herbert, who appeared in one film, "So Big," with Colleen Moore in 1925, died at his home yesterday.

Reviews

"Ramrod"

(Enterprise-United Artists)

ENTERPRISE takes its bow as a producer with a reliable piece of entertainment—a western. "Ramrod" is as dependable as its type normally is and just as sturdy.

It has its hero; he's Joel McCrea. Its heroine is fetching Arleen Whelan; its heavy, Preston Foster and its feminine menace, Veronica Lake, performing in her accustomed tempo which can get pretty slowbeat. This Harry Sherman production also has Don De Fore, a wild one with enough streaks of the right stuff to die so that McCrea, wounded, can get away from Foster and his cowboy-gunmen for the time being anyway.

The yarn by Luke Short is about the traditional tussle between cattle men and sheep men over grass on the open plains with no essential departures from the usual except dramatic variations as to incident. Miss Lake has it in for Foster because he has bullied a former fiancee, bent on sheep, out of town. She determines to get him, scrupulously or otherwise, and decides on otherwise. Through her maneuvers, which include the stampeding of her own cattle so that Foster may be blamed and his judgment day hastened, she becomes morally responsible for the death of Donald Crisp, the sheriff.

The chain of events let loose by her scheming also is indirectly responsible for De Fore's death at the blazing end of Foster's shotgun. It likewise leads to the latter's finish by McCrea who then turns romantically to Miss Whelan which leaves Miss Lake with her objective achieved but no McCrea.

Scenically, values are tops. Histrionically, values are conventional. Dramatically, ditto. But "Ramrod" has cast values of which proper advantage obviously should be taken. Andre de Toth directed.

Running time, 94 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, May 2, 1947. RED KANN

"Code of the West"

(RKO Radio)

ALTHOUGH "Code of the West," based on Zane Grey's novel, offers no big names, it combines enough punch, enough of all the good qualities that go into making a Western a good piece of merchandise, to place it high on the list of this type of production. Any exhibitor who finds his patrons particularly responsive to hard-fisted, action-packed horse-and-saddle pictures should satisfy his customers with this one.

Woven around the oft-repeated theme of a lawless town situated squarely on the site of a contemplated railroad, a fact known only to a few unscrupulous men, the story concerns the fearless fight waged by James Warren and John Laurenz, his pal and partner, in ridding the town of the culprits and bringing to it law and order. There is plenty of shooting and fighting before Raymond Burr, cabaret owner and town boss, who holds heavy mortgages on most of the local property, and his crew are vanquished.

Aiding the forces of justice are Harry Harvey, as a banker who contributes to the fight by lending money to the cattlemen at reasonable rates; Emmett Lynn, as the town doctor, and Debra Alden, as Harvey's daughter and romantic interest for Warren. Robert Clarke is cast as Harvey's son who, for a while, is close to the badmen, but has his eyes opened when he is taken as a hostage to enable one of the killers to escape. Steve Brodie is one of Burr's men. Produced by Herman Schlom, the film was directed by William Berke, from a screen play by Norman Houston.

Running time, 57 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set. IRVING KAPLAN

Smith Heads Phila. Red Cross Drive

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20. — Ulrik Smith, Paramount branch manager, has been named chairman of the local motion picture committee for the Red Cross drive, which will open March 1. Jack Greenberg, of Screen Guild, is co-chairman. Committee heads include: William Mansell, Warners for distributors; Ralph Pries, National Theatre Supply, supplies and equipment; Ted Schlanger and Lester Kreiger, co-chairman for Stanley-Warner; Sidney Samuelson of Allied, and Lewen Pizor of the UMPTO, co-chairmen for independents.

Thankful for Greek Drive

Greek Crown Princess Frederica has cabled "heartiest thanks" to Ned E. Depinet, co-chairman of the motion picture industry appeal for Greek War Orphans, which is to be conducted in honor of Spyros P. Skouras. She added that a committee of Greeks and Americans had been formed in Athens to supplement the drive to be staged in this country.

M - G - M Plans 100 'Beginning' Openings

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—M-G-M is planning simultaneous openings of "The Beginning or the End" in 100 situations throughout the country. William R. Ferguson, M-G-M exploitation head, is here discussing arrangements for the Chicago opening with Balaban and Katz executives. He will fly back to New York tomorrow, following today's Mid-West premiere of "The Yearling" at B. and K.'s State-Lake Theatre.

Mono. Film on Dope Ready on March 15

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20.—Monogram's production based on the original story, "Cocaine," by Cornell Woolrich, is scheduled for release March 15 under the title "Fall Guy." Picture was announced after the Motion Picture Association amended the Production Code to permit filming of stories employing the dope theme.

Next in line is Columbia's "Assigned to Treasury," the film for which the Code was amended.

Would Give Atlanta Censor Full Power

ALANTA, Feb. 20.—A City Council resolution, sponsored by Alderman Edward A. Gilliam and approved by Mayor Hartsfield, seeks to give complete film censorship power to Christine Smith, censor, whose rulings now are subject to approval of the Carnegie Library Board, when appealed.

Last week the board overruled Miss Smith's ban on Warners' "The Beast with Five Fingers" which Miss Smith had found "too horrible." This was the first case on record where the board did not concur with Miss Smith's opinion. Warners had taken an appeal.

At the same time it upheld her decision to prohibit the showing of Universal's "Swell Guy."

20th - Fox Dividends On Common and Pfd.

A quarterly dividend of $1.12½ per share on outstanding prior preferred stock, payable March 15 to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 3, was declared here yesterday by the board of directors of 20th Century-Fox. Dividends of 37½ cents and 75 cents a share on outstanding convertible preferred stock and on the common stock, respectively, payable on March 31 to stockholders of record on March 8, were also announced.

Loew Declares Dividend

Loew's, Inc., has declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents a share on outstanding common stock, payable on March 31 to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 11.

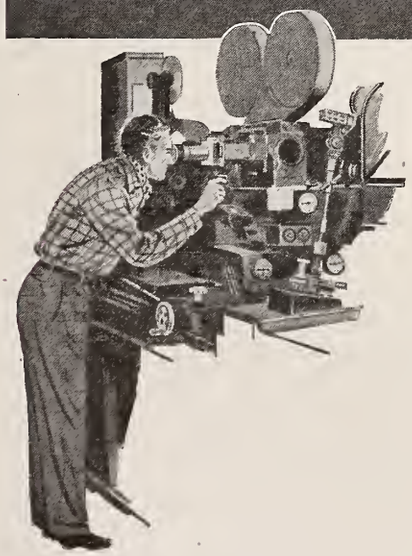
W. F. Moore Retiring

W. Franklin Moore, vice-president of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, will retire from the agency and the advertising business as of March 31. Moore recently completed 30 years with BBDO, the last 25 of which he served as account executive. The agency handles the duPont film manufacturing account, among others.

Byron Price To Join UN in About a Month

Byron Price, who resigned as vice-president in charge of Coast operations of the Motion Picture Association, to succeed John B. Hutson as assistant secretary-general of the United Nations for adminstrative and financial affairs, is en route to Hollywood from New York and is expected to return here to take over his new post in about one month.

As UN assistant secretary-general, Price will be, in effect, executive director of an organization which now has more than 2,900 employes. It is understood that he will also be available to Trygve Lie, UN secretary-general, for consultation on matters involving public relations.



Maker of dreams . . .

• To make dreams like this convincing . . . to show them with the smoothness that brings life and reality . . . that is the job of the optical-effects man.

Yet it is only one of his many contributions to modern pictures. By his skill with the optical printer . . . his production of fades and wipes, of dissolves and laps . . . he plays an important part in giving American movies their high standard of technical excellence.

If the optical-effects man is to play this part to the full, he must use dependable film of superior quality. That's why he usually prefers to work with the large and well-known family of Eastman motion picture films.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
ROCHESTER 4, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., DISTRIBUTORS
FORT LEE • CHICAGO • HOLLYWOOD

Australian Quota Bid Is Unresolved

By CLIFF HOLT

SYDNEY, Feb. 13 (By Airmail).—Semi-official statements here have not made clear how a government-considered 20 per cent cut in American film imports could be achieved, although one published suggestion is that only cheap, low-grade U. S. films be allowed to enter the Commonwealth. (On Feb. 5, MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported that Australian officials had been considering recommending the percentage reduction.—Ed.)

The published suggestion is regarded in unofficial quarters as an absurd policy that might conserve dollars—the intention said to be behind recommendations that U. S. film imports be cut—but that would, in the process, empty theatres. On the other hand, it is realized that a cut in footage would not necessarily reduce dollar expenditure.

By reason of Hollywood's reduced feature output, American film imports are certain to be much less than in recent years even without government interference here, and to keep her theatres adequately supplied, Australia will need every foot America can deliver. Australia, incidentally, is one of the countries pledged to participate in the forthcoming international trade agreements conferences.

Since Great Britain is the only sterling area on which Australia can call for film, and Britain's total footage represents only 10 per cent of Australia's minimum needs, it is clear that the proposed 20 per cent cut would mean serious shortages for exhibitors here. Already, some see the end of the double-feature policy to which Australia has long been wedded.

Australian Prime Minister Chifley has given assurance to the British government that Australia will make an all-out effort to save dollars. Importation of luxury items will be banned, as will all types of cars and trucks not considered essential for transport requirements. However, according to Chifley, Australia "despite her good intentions . . . cannot cut her American imports very considerably."

By comparison with other imports, films are not a serious drain on the dollar pool, and the Australian government may take this fact into consideration before determining final action.

Fire Law Checkup Set for Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—A survey of fire hazards in theatres and dance halls as a basis for an ordinance which the district attorney will prepare for the Sacramento county board, was announced by E. A. Fairbairn, county engineer.

Present regulations which only require that buildings be safe were declared by Fairbairn to be inadequate and a request for drafting a new ordinance was submitted.

Fire Destroys Ala. House

BIRMINGHAM, Feb. 20.—Fire virtually destroyed the Pinson Theatre at Pinson, 15 miles northwest of here, damage being estimated at $15,000. The theatre was empty at the time.

Short Subjects . . .

"Community Sing"

(*Columbia*)

The Song Spinners and Dick Leibert at the organ join forces to present such tunes as: "Rumors Are Flying," "Either It's Love or It Isn't," "There's Nothing the Matter with Me That a Kiss Can't Cure," "Pity the Poor Lobster" and "Stars Fell on Alabama." Running time, 9½ minutes.

"Country Life"

(*Paramount*)

A familiar gathering of not-so-dumb animals again engage in some sharp banter with the narrator in this "Speaking of Animals" issue. Among the "commentators" are cows, hogs, turkeys and chickens. Running time, 10 minutes.

"College Climbers"

(*RKO Radio*)

The natural wonders of the Colorado Rockies provide the proving ground for one of the most unusual college classes in America—mountain climbing. The subject in this "Sportscope" constitutes a vivid catalogue of the physical education course at Western State College, which is open to any student with a climbing urge. Running time, eight minutes.

"Czechoslovakia Comes Back"

(*American Relief for Czechoslovakia*)

The grim story of the harvest of war, told against the counter background of heroic efforts toward the reconstruction of Czechoslovakia, is the subject of this factual film written and produced by David Epstein from official Czechoslovak government and U. S. Signal Corps films. Depicted are the industrial and agricultural rebirth and the telling effect Nazi domination left on the children. Raymond Massey comments. Running time, 18 minutes.

"Via Margutta"

(*Superfilm*)

Produced in Rome by Incom Productions, "Via Margutta" is a camera tour of that street in the Italian capital which houses the art colony. A highly informative and interesting tour of the painters, composers, sculptors and allied artists, showing them at work. The English narration was arranged by Joe Parker. Running time, 12 minutes.

"Bear Facts"

(*Universal*)

Many kinds of North American wild life are shown in this film. Three little bear cubs are seen getting into all kinds of trouble, and the reactions of fox cubs to other denizens of the woods are captured by the camera. Running time, 10 minutes.

"The Etruscan Civilization"

(*Superfilm*)

The extinct Etruscan civilization of pre-Roman days is brought to the screen through an interesting camera interpretation based on the ruined cities, works of art, statues and paintings. Produced in Rome and accompanied by an English narration, the film traces the transition of Etruscan life from one of simplicity to one of grotesque symbolism and then, finally, to extinction. Running time, 9½ minutes.

Mexican Radio City Must Move Buildings

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 20.—Radio City, intended to be a permanent site for radio and television presentations, will not stay on the tract at Ixtapalapa, local suburb, begun last year with a radio show by a private syndicate. The federal supreme court has refused the syndicate an injunction to prevent the municipal government, owner of the land, from ousting the syndicate. The court rejected the syndicate's plea that the radio city would contribute to culture in Mexico, ruling that it is a private enterprise, and accepted the government's contention that it needs the land for the establishment of various social services. The ruling means that the syndicate must remove buildings it started to erect and installations it had commenced on the land.

Four Lead in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 20.—Mexico's leading box-office producers last year were Filmex, Producciones Grovas Panamerican Films and Clasa Films Mundiales.

French Reissue Rights

Leo Cohen has acquired Western Hemisphere reissue rights for the French film "Club de Femmes," which stars Danielle Darrieux. Cohen, who distributed "Sirocco" and "Paris Frills," expects to have "Club" on Broadway soon.

Coast, Texas 'Duel' Openings Postponed

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Plans for "Duel in the Sun" openings in 20 theatres here, originally set for next week, are now in abeyance, with Selznick Releasing Organization officials considering postponement to a later date.

Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio openings have also been postponed due, according to the studio, to previous commitments preventing Gregory Peck, Jennifer Jones and Joseph Cotten from making Texas premier appearances.

'Duel' for Mexican Run

Mexico's newest motion picture house, now being built in the city of San Luis Potosi, will be the Potosi Theatre with a seating capacity of 3,000, and exhibitor Lasso de Lavegan intends to open it in May with David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun," according to a Selznick spokesman here.

Reviving Mexican Film

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 20.—A Technicolor revival is being prepared of "Alla en el Rancho Grande" ("Way Down on the Rancho Grande"), the picture produced in 1935 that made Mexico known as a film producing country. The picture is said to have grossed $800,000. Its director, Fernando de Fuentes, will produce and direct the technicolor version.

Loew's Int'l Chiefs Plan Overseas Trips

Loew's Inetrnational executives contemplate continued travelling activity, with Arthur M. Loew, president, heading the list with a flying trip to Paris for a month's tour of Europe slated for March 18. Also scheduled to go to Europe on an extended tour is Arthur Pincus, assistant director of advertising-publicity, who will depart for England on March 5. On April 1 Maurice Silverstein, associate regional director for the Far East, will leave New York for a tour of that territory; by that time Edward F. O'Connor, regional director, will have returned here from the Far East.

Meanwhile, Samuel N. Burger, regional director for Latin America, is due to leave here shortly for a tour of his territory. Richard J. Brenner, Latin America assistant regional director, is now beginning the final leg of a six months' visit, and is due to return to New York in May. Morton A. Spring, first vice-president, is due to return to New York from the Coast early in March, and David Lewis, regional director of Continental Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, now in Paris, is due dack here around March 15, having been away six months. Louis Lober, associate regional director, will pick up where Lewis leaves off, departing from New York on March 17. Seymour Mayer, 16mm. sales chief, who has been away from New York three months, is due back here this week from Central and South America.

Weening Assigned To Peru by Para.

Siegfried Weening, who joined Paramount International in December, has been named branch manager for Peru, by A. L. Pratchett, Latin American division manager. He will fill the post left by the recent death of Osvaldo Urrutia, who had been the company's manager there for the past 16 years.

Weening most recently was manager for Republic in Trinidad. He will leave New York by air today for Lima, where he will make his headquarters.

'Stallion' Shown Mar. 17

"Stallion Road," Warner production, will be nationally tradeshown on Monday, March 17. The picture is scheduled for release in April.

Republic

(*Continued from page 1*)

sented in Sweden and has just opened a branch in India.

Republic will continue its policy of selling pictures wherever and whenever it is profitably possible, Altschuler stated. Discussions now are going on with persons in Roumania, Hungary and Yugoslavia and Republic probably will sell each of those countries 15 pictures each. Two of the deals will be on an outright-sale basis, while the third will provide profit-participation. Republic has sold 35 pictures to Holland and 11 to Czechoslovakia. All of these countries operate under a state monopoly and ordinarily are being, or would be, served by the Motion Picture Export Association.

Altschuler will go abroad for an extended trip on Feb. 26.

French Firms

(*Continued from page* 1)

will go to the producers. This means a loss of nearly 916,000,000 francs—about $7,694,000, or nearly a third of their original investment.

The deficit is all the more serious because it affects the producers' finances, private backers and financial advances made by the banks and the state. In 1939 the average cost of a feature was about 2,500,000 francs. Today it is 25,000,000 francs.

At its general yearly meeting, the French Film Producers Syndicate issued a statement pointing out that on the 10,000,000,000 francs of gross receipts of the 5,000 theatres in French territory, not including North Africa, 3,000,000,000 went to special entertainment taxes while French producers received only 2,000,000,000. The producers are asking for immediate reduction of taxes and suppression of the special "tax de luxe," which is 17 per cent on the gross; further, they are asking a premium for exporting French pictures.

Bureaus Being Replaced

The new government cinema office, the National Cinema Center, gradually is replacing both the Office Professionel du Cinema, the official trade organization, dissolved by a decree of Dec. 28, 1946, and the government's cinema bureau, the Direction Generale de la Cinematographie.

Michel Fourre-Cormeray, former head of the Direction Generale, has been appointed manager of the Center. He will be assisted by five managers, assigned imports and exports, distribution and exhibition, technical services and production and social work.

In trade circles here it is generally thought that the future of the French film industry depends upon the way the Center is operated. The industry may be brought to very different positions according to the political tendencies which will rule the Center, which is expected to be in full operation at least by the end of February.

Tax Protests Fail

A decree enforced on a general five per cent tax on all prices has been applied to theatre admissions, although exhibitor associations had protested against such a decision.

In the past year, 220 features were released in Paris. There were 109 American films released, 16 British, six Russian, two Belgian, two Swedish, one Italian and one Swiss, in addition to 83 French productions. Thirty-five of the American films were not dubbed.

It is reported that Pathe Cinema and Gaumont, two of France's most important film companies, will merge their production facilities, including their laboratories. Together they have 11 sound stages. The new company will be called the Societe des Studios Francais. At present there is no indication that the distribution and exhibition interests of the two companies will be merged.

Davis Named a Director

John Davis, managing director of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, Ltd., and joint managing director of Odeon Theatres, Ltd., has been appointed to the board of directors of Gaumont British Picture Corp. and General Film Distributors, according to word received here from London yesterday by the Rank Organization.

Student Film Plan Gets N.Y.C. Sanction

By virtue of a special ruling by the New York City administration on the present statute that forbids children of school age to attend theatres during school hours, Century Circuit will inaugurate today at its Rialto Theatre in Brooklyn, an experimental grade school visual education program. Some 1,000 seventh and eighth grade pupils of four Brooklyn schools will be escorted by their teachers this morning to the theatre where "Tom Sawyer" will be shown. No admission will be charged; Century will bear all costs.

City License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding said yesterday that he will be present at the screening to observe the effects of the experiment, which is being conducted under the auspices of the Board of Education. The program, under its tentative structure, calls for one show each month from February through May, to "help concretize the impressions derived from the reading of four specific literary classics," according to Century.

U. A. Salesmen Here Off to Buffalo Today

United Artists' New York sales force will leave for Buffalo today for the first of four regional sales conferences. The meeting will be held in the Statler Hotel there, starting tomorrow. The group will include: Jack Ellis, district manager; Abe Dickstein, assistant to Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern and Canadian sales manager; and Pat Marcone, Dave Burkan, Sam Rifkin, William Shutzer, Dick Perry and Walter McVeigh from the New York branch.

PCC Total Pushes Ahead of '46 Mark

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20.—Subscriptions to the Permanent Charities Committee's annual appeal now total $1,286,718.34 from 20,487 contributors, increasing the per capita average to $62.81, campaign chairman M. C. Levee told the ninth report meeting today.

"On the basis of the reduced goals of national and local charities," Levee said, "industry workers have already exceeded last year's efforts. Subscriptions to our campaign so far are 83 per cent of last year's."

'Quentin' Opening in 77 Midwest Theatres

DES MOINES, Feb. 20.—Plans have been completed for the Iowa-Nebraska regional opening of RKO Radio's "San Quentin" in 77 theatres, headed by the Brandeis, Omaha, on March 5, with personal appearances by Lawrence Tierney, star of the picture. RKO Radio branch managers Max Rosenblatt, Des Moines, and Jack Renfro, Omaha, have had the promotional cooperation of Bob Hickey, Midwest field supervisor, Edward Holland and Keith Bain, field men.

Cameramen Beaten

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20. — Camera crews working on a "This Is America" short titled "Mardi Gras," scheduled for RKO Radio April release, were beaten up by three thugs while filming the Mardi Gras parade. Cameraman Howard Winner and Frank Mayer were among the men beaten.

British Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

hand. A spokesman, however, warned that a two-week gap in the output is inevitable, even if the government should allow the public to start using power immediately.

The laboratory situation is even more grave. Although certain of the plants have been operating on privately-generated power, the George Humphries establishment, by far the largest, has been closed altogether.

At today's meeting, a committee was appointed to work out temporary arrangements for conserving supplies and to impress upon the government the vital need to give special priority to raw stock manufacturers and processors.

Although the Kinematograph Renters Society has attempted to coordinate information regarding forthcoming releases, with a view to pooling printing resources, several of its members pointed out that features are the lifeblood of the exhibitor's business and advocated the complete suspension of work on newsreels, short subjects and production rushes. As of today, the printing of rushes has been prohibited by the government, so far as public power is involved.

Carbon is slightly more plentiful than is film, but a spokesman for that industry declared that it too is "living from hand to mouth."

In general, the industry expects revolutionary alterations in theatre programs for at least a year.

Julian Street, 67

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Feb. 20.—Julian Street, 67, novelist and essayist who had been working on a motion picture script, died here yesterday.

ITOA Will Resume Talks with Allied

At a meeting of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, held at the Hotel Astor, here, yesterday, it was decided that the organization will resume negotiations with Allied States at a meeting in March on the question of the ITOA's affiliating with Allied.

Additionally, ITOA president Harry Brandt at the meeting appointed a committee to participate in the March 10-11 meeting here of the motion picture forum. The committee includes: John C. Bolte, Rudolph Sanders, Leon Rosenblatt, Robert Goldblatt and Brandt, and the following alternates: Henry Siegel, Max Goldbaum and Dave Mate.

It was disclosed at the meeting yesterday that Max A. Cohen, chairman of the ITOA film committee, will make a trip to the Coast shortly.

Murray Gets a Third

ATLANTA, Feb. 20.—W. T. Murray, owner of the Rialto and the New Hilan, Atlanta, has taken over the Center, here.

ATA, CSA Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

the original intervention bid, is expected to be filed here on or before the March 1 deadline.

The exhibitor organizations seek to be heard in the case only with regard to the final decree's competitive-bidding provision, which they claim affects their interests. Arnold, however, has told the Federal Court here that ATA also is interested in the property rights involved in the required termination of theatre leases between affiliated circuits and independents.

Paramount
TRADE SHOW
New York City Territory Only
•
"BLAZE of NOON"
Starring
ANNE BAXTER · WILLIAM HOLDEN
SONNY TUFTS · WILLIAM BENDIX
STERLING HAYDEN · HOWARD DA SILVA
Produced by Robert Fellows · Directed by John Farrow
•
MONDAY, MARCH 3rd at 10:30 A.M.
Normandie Theatre
51 East 53rd Street, N. Y. C.

UA, 'U' Attack

(*Continued from page* 1)

ations by the five exhibitor-distributor companies.

UA counters the New York court's conclusion that the company joined with the other defendants in a conspiracy with the declaration that no evidence in the record of the case could feasibly lead to that conclusion.

The court erred, it states further, in that there is "no evidence that any exhibitor ever sought a run licensed by United Artists to a competing exhibitor or was ever refused a license by United Artists to exhibit any United Artists picture for that run or any other run that such exhibitor may have sought from United Artists."

UA contends that there is no evidence to prove that any clearance it granted adversely affected the interest of any competing exhibitor. It asserts that no clearance shown to have been granted by UA was proved to have been unreasonable in duration, area or otherwise and states that no evidence was given which established that UA discriminated between affiliated and independent theatres in specifying clearances over other theatres.

Lack of Evidence Claimed

In touching on the restraint-of-trade finding of the New York court, the company claims that no evidence showed that it had "acted concertedly with any other defendant or with any exhibitor to unreasonably restrain the trade of subsequent run theatres through the fixing of clearance for prior run theatres."

UA raises six "substantial" questions which it claims to be involved in the decision. On the price fixing ban, the appellant charges that the "undisputed evidence" is that the exhibitor determined the actual admission price charged at his theatre and that from this "no inference should have been drawn that the stipulation of a minimum admission price in a license agreement made the defendants guilty of a conspiracy to fix theatre admission prices." In enjoining the making and performance of such licenses, the court "has deprived the appellant of well-established property rights as well as rights conferred by the Copyright Law."

Competitive factors and not a conspiracy resulted in the similarity in clearances given by all the distributors, UA claims.

Burden of Proof

UA submits that the fundamental rule of law is that the burden of proving is upon the one who alleges, as opposed to the court's dictate that whenever a clearance provision is attacked as illegal the burden of proof shall be upon the distributor.

The company questions the right of the court to forbid it from considering satisfactory relationships in the past with certain exhibitors in determining to whom a picture is to be licensed.

Exhibitor franchise deals, according to UA, insured "the independent exhibitor product for his theatre, did not restrain trade and provided the non-theatre-owning defendants additional outlets for their product." Franchise deals are illegal, according to the New York decision.

UA's sixth "substantial question" is the one holding the competitive bidding order as the one belonging to a legislative body and not a court.

In its assignment of errors UA points to the fact that it is only a distributing company and that approval of its exhibition contracts must be given by the producers of the company's pictures. In this respect it sets itself apart from the other defendants in the case.

Universal's appeal, highlights of which were reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, is supplemented by a 24-page "Statement as to Jurisdiction," which reviews the background of the case and presents arguments supporting the company's position.

Regarding multiple film sales, the statement declares: "Instead of licensing their product picture by picture and theatre by theatre, wholesale licensing by distributors has been a very general practice in the industry. Such selling permits both buyer and seller to know where they stand at the earliest possible time and to plan accordingly."

Influence Denied

On the subject of clearance and run, Universal contends that these are not matters "upon which a non-theatre-owning defendant, distributing an insignificant portion of the best-drawing pictures, could have any substantial influence."

"Whether or not there was a conspiracy among the theatre-owning distributors," the statement continues, "the similarity of Universal's action, in respect of admission prices, runs and clearances, to that of the other defendant distributors, was not a proper basis upon which to hold it (in violation of the anti-trust laws). The District Court held that 'independent distributors' were 'obliged to conform' to a 'fixed scale of clearances, runs and admission prices' in order 'to get their pictures shown upon satisfactory runs.' Yet Republic Pictures Corporation, one of these 'independent distributors,' is larger, relative to Universal, than Universal is, relative to the 'big five'." Republic is not a party to the suit.

"Franchises, in which a distributor commits its pictures for periods longer than one year to an exhibitor," the statement declares, "are considerably less restrictive than the ordinary exclusive agency arrangement, which is one of the most common methods of doing business."

Would Force Reels On All Theatres

By NATALIO BRUSKI

Buenos Aires, Feb. 12 (By Airmail).—The producers of local newsreels, "Sucesos Argentinos," "Panamericano," and "Sucesos de las Americas," the most important of those edited in Argentina, are negotiating with Government authorities for the application of a decree making it compulsory for exhibitors to show the reels in all theatres.

Meanwhile, negotiations for a municipal tax on Buenos Aires theatre admissions are still continuing. At present time the Association of Empresarios has proposed to municipal authorities a sliding scale of taxation—from six to 12 per cent—based on the amount of admission charged at individual theatres.

US Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

the court here late this morning.

Following the government's intention made known several weeks ago by Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, the Department's appeal will ask for the complete divorcement of distribution and exhibition and, pending the orderly divestiture of affiliated theatres, for a ban on cross licensing among the defendants. The high tribunal will be told that the New York court erred in failing to make these requirements, it is understood.

In general, the government will contend that Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright were wrong in finding that Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Bros. had not achieved a monopoly in exhibition.

With regard to the distribution monopoly found by the court, the U. S. will claim that the relief granted is inadequate to prevent the defendants from restraining competition. The New York court's relief formula includes a ban on price-fixing, on enforcing clearance "in excess of what is reasonably necessary to protect the licensee," on franchise agreements, formula deals and master agreements; on conditioning the sale of one feature upon the sale of one or more others; on "arbitrary refusal" to license a feature on a run selected by the exhibitor, and on selling pictures in any manner except through a system of competitive bidding.

The government's "Assignment of Errors" is understood to contain only three pages, in contrast to the lengthier documents filed by Columbia, Universal and United Artists, the three non-theatre-owning defendants. However, the Department's jurisdiction statement, in which the arguments to support its position are outlined, is said to cover 17 pages.

A complete report on the contents of the appeal was unavailable last night, prior to the actual filing, with government officials both here and in Washington declining to discuss the documents.

Protest on Ad Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

sults of the pending law took place. The Governor has until March 5 to sign.

The bill would empower the censor division of the State Board of Regents to revoke film licenses because of indecent or immoral advertising in media available to the public. The bill had its roots in a recent decision made by the Regents which found it could not revoke the license of "The Outlaw" in the state, the film's questionable newspaper advertising notwithstanding. The Regents then recommended legislation to cover such cases.

Para. To Sell Six

(*Continued from page* 1)

on Paramount's 1946-1947 release schedule in order to simplify sales procedure.

The license for each film will be negotiated separately for individual theatres, he said. The six pictures involved are: "Big Town," "Seven Were Saved," "Fear in the Night," "Danger Street," "I Cover Big Town" and "Jungle Flight."

Alleges Mexicans Dodge Income Tax

Mexico City, Feb. 20.—The charge is made by *El Nacional*, local daily newspaper and Mexican government mouthpiece, that certain unnamed film stars, with the aid of certain unnamed producers, are defrauding the government of much money in evading income taxes. The story says that the players make three contracts for one assignment—one contract to avoid income tax, the other as a publicity vehicle and the third, the real one, which can never be found.

"Our cinematographic business is all bluff and publicity," said *El Nacional*. However, this kind of income tax dodging is not peculiar to Mexico; it is exercised in some other countries, too."

Dubbing Increasing In German Market

By H. ZU LOEWENSTEIN

BERLIN, Feb. 20.—The dubbing of foreign pictures (or "synchronization" as it is called here) has always played an important role in the German market and now is picking up again due to the scarcity of film material and equipment. A large dubbing studio is almost ready to start production at Calmuth, near Remagen, on the Rhine. Two companies will be housed in adjoining buildings. All films will be made in both German and French.

"The American picture "Mark Twain" will soon be shown here in a dubbed version. The M-G-M production "Robert Schumann" also will be dubbed into German. The Tempelhof studios in Berlin intend to dub two American films each month. Almost 50 pictures will be imported from the U. S. every year.

A new studio has been established in Weimar, in Russian-occupied Thuringia. Its production schedule has not yet been announced.

An association of motion picture producers has been founded in Hamburg, in the British Zone. It is open to all film producers, directors and other executives working in the British zone and the British-occupied sector of Berlin. Another such group, taking in also writers and actors, has been formed in Berlin.

A ranking member of the British Military Government has announced that 200 copies of American films will be made available to the German public in 1947. However, he pointed out that U. S. films will only be permitted to be shown in the British Zone on an exchange basis.

Bogeaus-Thompson Deal

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20.—J. Walter Thompson Co. has been named advertising agency for Benedict Bogeaus Production by Carl Leserman, executive vice-president of the Bogeaus Company. Campaigns will be prepared immediately on "Christmas Eve" and "A Miracle Can Happen", both for United Artists release.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 37 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1947 TEN CENTS

Pickford and Chaplin Sole Owners of UA

Producer Partnerships End with Selznick Exit

By SHERWIN KANE

Sole ownership of United Artists was gained by Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin, two of the founders of the company, in consequence of the settlement late Friday night of differences between UA and David O. Selznick. The settlement provided for the return to the company of the one-third stock interest in UA held by Selznick's Vanguard Films and the ending of all pending litigation by the company against Selznick and by the latter against United Artists.

The settlement was concluded at a meeting of representatives of the principals in the New York law offices of Schwartz & Frohlich, counsel for Chaplin. Immediately following the meeting a special session of the United Artists board of directors was convened and the resignation of Selznick's representatives on the board were tendered and accepted.

Charles Schwartz, senior member of Schwartz & Frohlich, was elected to the UA board as a Chaplin representative, and Arnold Grant, counsel for Miss Pickford, was elected one of her representatives. Other members of the board are Edward C. Raftery, UA president; Edwin Claude Mills and Herbert P. Jacoby, Chaplin representatives, and Franklin Cole and Herman Weisman, Pickford representatives.

The Selznick directors who resigned were Milton Kramer, Phillip Siff and Henry Marx.

It is the intention of Miss Pickford and Chaplin, their spokesmen say, to

(*Continued on page 6*)

Storm Cut Grosses In East One-Third

The 11½-inch snowstorm which originated in the South and moved up along the Atlantic Seaboard late Thursday blanketing several Eastern states had the obvious adverse effect on theatre business, which was reduced on an average of 33⅓ per cent.

New York exhibitors in the first-run area, reporting their incomes cut

(*Continued on page 6*)

Republic's Earnings $1,097,940 for Period of 48 Weeks

Republic Pictures Corp. and subsidiary companies had consolidated net earnings of $1,097,940, after provision of $735,000 for Federal income taxes, for the 48-week period ended Oct. 26, 1946, it was announced at the weekend by Herbert J. Yates, president. The statement was made in lieu of a 52-week report, inasmuch as the merger with Consolidated Film Industries became effective on Nov. 27, 1945.

Herbert J. Yates

Yates announced, in a letter to stockholders accompanying the statement, that Republic has abandoned temporarily its plans to raise additional permanent capital "to finance properly" the expansion of the domestic business, particularly in the field

(*Continued on page 6*)

Ind. Anti-ASCAP Bill Amended

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 23.—A bill affecting the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has been amended in the Indiana House Judiciary committee to give theatres full protection from damages as the result of unlicensed performances by making producers or distributors liable. Another amendment would exempt all radio stations from its provisions.

U.S. SEES BIDDING AS UNENFORCEABLE

Paramount Theatre Cuts Price Scale

The New York Paramount will reduce weekday opening admission price on Wednesday from the present average of about 78 cents to 55 cents; its Saturday opening price from an average of 90 cents to 70 cents, and its Sunday opening price from $1.30 to $1.25, all tax-included. Other scales have been changed slightly, upwards and downwards, with the over-all average dropping from 97 cents to 93 cents.

The change was made by Robert M. Weitman, managing director, as a result of a public opinion survey which, he said, demonstrated that the public is shopping for bargains in entertainment.

Dispel Admission Tax Fear in N.Y.C.

"The mayor and comptroller have said that they do not favor a city theatre admission tax." This statement was reiterated at the weekend in semi-official quarters of the New York City administration as the industry here focused attention on a bill, introduced in the State Senate, which would authorize cities and incorporated villages to impose local taxes on amusements, which are already subject to a 20 per cent Federal impost.

Appeal Says System Would Mean Chaos; Hits Most of Decree

The New York Federal Court's decision on the competitive bidding system, already under attack from numerous exhibitor groups throughout the country, as well as from distributor defendants in the industry anti-trust suit, now has lost its heretofore tacit acceptance by the Department of Justice, which, in asking the U. S. Supreme Court to reverse the local tribunal's decree, terms the bidding plan "unenforceable" and says it would "lead to chaos." The Government's appeal, the fourth to be made out of a possible 10, was placed on record here Friday, more than a week in advance of the March 1 dead-

(*Continued on page 6*)

O'Connor Names 49 For Charity Drive

A goal of $1,000,000 for the 1947 New York Catholic Charities Drive was disclosed at the weekend by John J. O'Connor, Universal vice-president, who is chairman of the motion pictures committee of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity for the drive. Bert Sanford of Altec Service is vice-chairman. O'Connor said that solicitations in the industry will be-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Friedman, Schreiber Attack N.Y. Ad Bill

Stanleigh Friedman, Warner vice-president and member of its legal staff, and Sidney Schreiber, counsel for the Motion Picture Association, today are to formally protest in Albany a bill which would empower the New York State censor to ban a picture when its advertising copy is found objectionable.

The measure has passed both houses and is awaiting signature.

Supreme Court Hearing in October Or November Expected by Wright

Washington, Feb 23.—The industry anti-trust suit will not be argued before the U. S. Supreme Court until late this year, probably during October or November, according to Robert L. Wright, Government counsel in the case, who said the appeal may be placed on the High Court docket by spring but must wait its turn.

If Wright's estimate is correct, the Supreme Court would not hand down a decision until sometime in 1948, it is understood. After the high tribunal acts, the defendants will have a right to appeal for a re-hearing, and that would prolong the case for another 60 days.

The completion of the case probably will not come until June, 1948. At the very earliest, the suit will not be completed until January or February of next year, it is said.

In This Issue

"Beat the Band" and "Jungle Flight" are reviewed on page 7.

Personal Mention

NATE J. BLUMBERG, president of Universal, is due in New York from the Coast shortly.

•

CECIL B. DEMILLE, Paramount producer-director; DONALD HAYNE, his executive assistant; GLADYS ROSSON, production executive, and PHIL KOURY, publicist, left New York for the Coast yesterday by train.

•

KEN HALL, head of Cine-Sound, Sydney, Australia, who is visiting in New York, will be honor guest at a luncheon at the Lotos Club today being given by Harold Auten of the J. Arthur Rank Organization.

•

MICHAEL MINDLIN, JR., has resigned from the Warner Brothers home office publicity department to join George and Dorothy Ross Publicity Associates.

•

LOWELL V. CALVERT, Eastern sales executive for Hunt Stromberg Productions, is visiting the Coast and is expected to return to New York next week.

•

GEORGE J. SCHAEFER, Enterprise vice-president in charge of distribution, is due here from the Coast the latter part of this week.

•

JAMES QUINN has resigned as manager of the Valencia Theatre, Baltimore, to take a similar post at the Hippodrome there.

•

RUDOLPH WEISS, head of Warner Theatres' real estate department, left New York last night for Chicago.

•

EDWARD L. ALPERSON will leave Hollywood for New York by train today.

•

DONALD HYDE, vice-president of United States Pictures, has returned to the Coast from New York.

•

VERNON CALDWELL, Walt Disney Studios executive, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

Waldman Appointed District Manager

George Waldman has been appointed Metropolitan New York district manager of Film Classics, with headquarters at the company's New York exchange.

Waldman held an executive sales post with Warner Brothers for a number of years and was connected with Warner Theatres in Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York.

Schanberger Ill

BALTIMORE, Feb. 23.—Variety Club members here are giving blood transfusions to Fred Schanberger, Jr., recently elected chief barker of the Baltimore Tent, who is seriously ill at Bon Secours Hospital with a stomach ailment.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE policy of combating legislation inimical to the industry at what recent public pronouncements by industry fire-fighters refer to as "the local level" appears to be in need of examination in consequence of recent happenings on the far-flung legislative fronts.

One of the most pertinent of such happenings is the sorry experience of the reenactment of the Federal admission tax without a change and, what may prove even more serious, without even a date being set for its termination. For all the industry knows at the moment, that 20 per cent tap may be a permanent fixture for the box-offices of the nation, as much a part of them as a roll of tickets.

There was no organized effort of any kind on the part of the industry to influence a different result. Yet every interested organization in the industry has known for many months that the Federal excise legislation would be among the first measures which would be considered by the present Congress. It is a new Congress and, therefore, amenable to changes.

There can be no explanation or excuse for inaction on the part of national industry organizations in the fact that the tax legislation was rushed through Congress post-haste and without the holding of public hearings. That did not deter the fur industry nor travel agencies from winning for themselves special consideration and concessions in the new tax legislation. Those concessions, it is learned with some reliability, were not won "at the local level" but through direct approaches in Washington.

•

Just what is a "local level" campaign on legislation? Is it intelligently organized opposition, carefully planned, with telling arguments well marshaled and effectively presented, as any campaign having the remotest chance for success should be? Or is it merely a hit-or-miss matter of sending a telegram or form letter to this or that legislator who may or may not have heard of the petitioner, and who may or may not be a member of one of the strategic committees drafting the legislation for Congress?

Is it a campaign at all, or is it merely a convenient method of passing the buck from the level of national organization to the haphazard efforts of local organization?

Apparently, there was but one determined effort within the whole industry to combat the continuance of the Federal admission tax on the local level which gained sufficient proportions to merit publicity. That was conducted by the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, an affiliate of Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, which itself did not put much emphasis on "local level" campaigns. The Congressional responses to that campaign, according to reports made by Morris Loewenstein, MPTO of Oklahoma president, amounted in the main to "polite brush-offs."

And, insofar as the industry has been informed, that constituted the most determined, the best planned and the most extensive "local level" campaign against the new Federal tax measure which the industry was capable of producing.

It is the customary good fortune of this amazing industry that it never loses one opportunity that another, equally as good, is not offered it. Now comes Representative Harold Knutson, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, with the announcement that the entire structure of the Federal excise taxes will be reviewed by that body with the object of reducing future levies where inequities are found to exist.

That would seem to offer a worthwhile opportunity for the Washington level of the industry to do something on behalf of the nation's box offices that, sadly, it appears the local level is not equipped to do.

• •

The annual American Red Cross drive for contributions will begin next Saturday and will continue throughout the month of March.

All that the Red Cross asks of theatres this year is that their screens be made available for showing the seven-minute appeal film, "Call to Action," during the run of programs which start or are current tomorrow. The appeal subject is a professional job, made by The March of Time. It is worthy of the best theatre in the land. Your screen time is your professional contribution to the Red Cross.

Newsreel Parade

ALL current newsreels present glimpses into the private life of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun, from photographs confiscated in Germany. Other items spotlighted include the Pennsylvania train disaster, the Golden Gloves finals, bob-sledding at Lake Placid, the British Royal family on tour and events in France, England and Canada. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 51—The private life of Eva Braun, Hitler's wife. Show of Canadian armament in night blizzard. Railroad wreck in Pennsylvania. New Orleans Mardi-Gras. British royal family aboard *Vanguard*. Arabian crown prince visits President Truman. Sports: Golden Gloves, bob-sledding at Lake Placid.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 249—Private life of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun. Royal family at sea. Twenty-two die in rail disaster. Million at New Orleans Mardi-Gras. Olympic bob-sled test.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 52—Golden Gloves bouts. Birth of Netherlands princess. Hens wear glasses to save lives. Hitler-Eva Braun films.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 54—Twenty-two dead in train wreck. Hitler and Eva Braun. Sign five peace treaties. Gromyko debates atom plan. Paris paralyzed by strike. Royal family relaxes at sea. Crack-ups mark bob-sled race.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 15—Confiscated pictures from private collection of Eva Braun, Hitler's consort. Twenty-two dead in Pennsylvania train wreck. New Orleans Mardi-Gras. British King and Queen on tour. Bob-sled trials at Lake Placid. Golden Gloves finals.

SRO Outlets Set This Week: Kusell

Physical distribution facilities for the product of David O. Selznick, starting with "Duel in the Sun," will be arranged for in a deal to be closed early this week with either a new company, National Film Distributors, or another unidentified organization, according to Milton Kusell, general sales manager of Selznick Releasing Organization.

Only film vaults and inspection and shipping facilities would be contracted for, Kusell said, with the Selznick company handling all selling and promotion.

National Film Distributors firm, in Philadelphia, reports that an agreement with Selznick is virtually closed. The company is headed by James Clark, who is president of the National Film Carriers Association, and by Clint Weyer, secretary. It was said that the 10 member companies of the association would participate in the film handling deal on a franchise basis.

These are located in New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Des Moines and San Francisco. Other outlets will be established, it was reported, in the other exchange centers.

The distribution company will operate entirely apart from the carriers, it was said. Headquarters, temporarily in Philadelphia, will be in New York.

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Work Begins on May Variety Convention

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—The first full meeting of all committees working on plans for the 11th annual Variety Club's International convention, to be held here May 13-17, was held in the office of Charles P. Skouras, convention chairman. A four-hour meeting took up every phase of the convention and the "Humanitarian Award" dinner. The award is made annually to the person who rendered the most outstanding service to mankind during the past year.

Following is a list of the committees and their members: Humanitarian Award Banquet and Entertainment: George Bowser, chairman; William Srere and Andrew J. Krappman; Convention Journal: Dave Bershon, chairman; Thornton Sargent and Robert Kesner; Studio Contacts: Willard Keith and Howard Stubbins, co-chairmen; Bruce Fowler, Victor Adams and Cullen Espy; Publicity: Sherrill Corwin, chairman; Seymour Peiser, Pete Latsis and Earl Adams; Finance: George Topper chairman; Jack Berman.

Also: Heart Committee: Dr. Ben Feingold, chairman; Dave Bershon; Ladies: Rhyllis Hemmington, chairman; Ida Schreiber and Ruth Doyle; Decorations: Oscar Oldknow, chairman; Dean Hyskell and Ben Ashe; Registration, hotel and transportation: W. H. (Bud) Lollier, chairman; Al Galston and John Lavery; Token and gift; Jack Berman, chairman; Dick Dickson and Lloyd Ornsby.

'Life' Gives 3 Pages To Paramount Short

Life magazine will devote three pages of its March 3 issue to the Paramount "Pacemaker" short, "Radio, Take It Away." This is said to be the first time that magazine has assigned so much space to a short subject.

The film is a satire on radio audience participation programs. It was given feature picture treatment by Paramount's short subjects publicity department, headed by I. John Phillips.

Raoul Le Mat, 71

Raoul Le Mat, 71, former Olympic athlete and former member of Le Mat-Metro-Goldwyn, which held the Swedish M-G-M franchise for many years, died of a heart attack in Panama City on Feb. 14, according to word received here on Friday. In recent years Le Mat was in show business in Washington and elsewhere. He retired two years ago.

Monogram Art Displayed

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—The posters on Monogram's "Suspense," illustrated by artist Gene Widhoff, are the only motion picture advertising art in the annual exhibition of the Art Directors Club of Los Angeles.

AVAILABLE

If you need an executive secretary with unique combination of experience in Hollywood Studios and with top executives in New York offices, call Butterfield 8-3884, New York.

Altschuler to Europe On Republic Branches

Richard W. Altschuler, president and general manager of Republic Pictures, has booked passage on the *SS America* for his departure Wednesday to survey the company's European outlets with a view to establishing five new offices abroad and getting Republic product into the Soviet sphere, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Friday. Uncertain of whether he would gain admittance to countries under Soviet influence, Altschuler said that he did not know how long his journey would take.

He also declared that plans for the expansion of Republic's overseas operations would probably be completed in June.

MPTOA Will Have 6 Attend March Forum

Lewen Pizor, Philadelphia; Morris Loewenstein, Oklahoma City; Merritt Kyser, East Aurora, N. Y., and J. J. O'Leary, Scranton, have been appointed by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, as delegates for that organization, to the film-forum scheduled to be held at the Hotel Astor, New York, on March 10-11.

Wehrenberg, of course, is also a delegate, and Herman Levy, New Haven, will attend as MPTOA counsel.

Toronto Gets 2 More First-Runs in March

TORONTO, Feb. 23.—Two more outlets for top product in Toronto will result from a change in the first-run set-up effective next month. Famous Players Canadian Corp. has arranged for the teaming of four theatres, the Shea and the Imperial and the Victoria and the Capitol. First-runs films will go into all four.

The end of wartime price controls also means increased admission prices at the Tivoli and Capital.

Arnold on Trust Laws

Thurman Arnold, former Assistant U. S. Attorney General in charge of the anti-trust division, and now counsel for the American Theatres Association, will participate in a 45-minute radio discussion on "How Far Should a Regulated Industry be Subject to Anti-Trust Law," to be broadcast by Mutual tomorrow. Other scheduled speakers are Sen. Clyde M. Reed, Kansas; Sen. Charles W. Tobey, New Hampshire, and A. W. Vogtle, chairman of the Southeast Shippers Conference.

RKO Beats Shell, 47-44

The RKO basketball team now leads the Rockefeller Center Industrial League, having beaten Shell Oil by the score of 47-44. There will be one more playoff with the winner of the advertising division for the overall championship of the Rockefeller Center League. Quigley Publications' fleety five also was very active in the league, ending its season last week.

Age Restriction Bill

HARTFORD, Feb. 23.—A bill which would fine theatre owners and managers $50 for admitting children under 14 unaccompanied by parents or guardians, has been introduced in the state legislature by Sen. Stapleton.

WB Parley Opens Here on Thursday

Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager of Warner Brothers, will conduct a two-day meeting of district managers and home office executives on Feb. 27-28 in New York to discuss sales-matters and forthcoming product, and presumably including discussions on the effects of the New York Federal Court anti-trust suit decision.

Home office executives also taking part in the sessions will include: Samuel Schneider, vice-president; Mort Blumenstock, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity; Roy Haines, Western division sales manager; Jules Lapidus, Eastern division sales manager; Norman Ayers, Southern division sales manager; I. F. Dolid, assistant to Kalmenson; Ed Hinchy, head of the playdate department; Bernard R. Goodman, supervisor of exchanges; Stanley Hatch, manager of the contract department, and others.

District managers at the meeting will include Sam Lefkowitz, Eastern; Robert Smeltzer, Mid-Atlantic; Charles Rich, Central; Harry A. Seed, Midwest; Hall Walsh, Prairie; John F. Kirby, Southeastern; Doak Roberts, Southwestern; Henry Herbel, West Coast; Haskell Masters, Canadian.

Canadian Pioneers To Meet on Feb. 27

TORONTO, Feb. 23.—The Canadian Picture Pioneers will hold its sixth annual meeting on Feb. 27 at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, at which new officers will be elected at an afternoon business meeting, followed by a dinner at night. The retiring president is L. M. Devaney, general manager of RKO of Canada.

Schwartz Takes Over RKO Film Buying

Sol Schwartz, vice-president and general manager of RKO Theatres, will, at least for the time being, absorb the circuit's film buying duties formerly handled by Harold J. Mirisch, who resigned last Thursday. Eventually, however, Schwartz is expected to appoint a successor to Mirisch.

NCCJ Report Luncheon

The amusements division committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews will report on the results of the current campaign at a luncheon to be held on Wednesday at the Hotel Astor here.

'Eagle' Suit Extension

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—The Los Angeles Superior Court has granted American Eagle Films an extension to March 3 to file an answer to the suit brought by Eagle-Lion, which is seeking to restrain American Eagle from using the word "Eagle" in its name.

Wheeler Succeeds Day

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—Lyle Wheeler has been named to head 20th Century-Fox's art department, following the resignation of Richard Day, who held the post for nine years.

Emerling Calls For Showmanship Revival

It is essential that theatre managers return to the fundamentals of showmanship and train their assistants in the art of picture selling, Ernest Emerling, advertising manager of Loew's Theatres, declared here Friday as a guest speaker at a series of lectures on motion picture advertising and selling being given by Henry A. Linet, Universal-International Eastern advertising manager, at the New School for Social Research.

Emerling pointed out that the producers provide the attractions and the tools with which to sell them and the theatre manager must make use of these tools if he is to remain in the running with competitors.

Parental Protests Against Crime Films

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—A wave of protests by Parent-Teachers Associations and educational groups in this vicinity against gangster and crime pictures is evoking considerable concern on the part of theatre managers here who are endeavoring to pacify them.

Typical is the Alameda County Federation of Women's Clubs' resolution to members linking the rise in juvenile delinquency to the preponderance of crime pictures. The resolution stated that while theatres should not have to shoulder the responsibility for young people attending films, theatres should not book so many thrillers and should adhere more to the "family" type of pictures.

3 New Staff Shifts By Century Circuit

Three additional circuit staff changes have been made by J. R. Springer, general manager of Century Theatres; they follow:

George E. Fascher is the new assistant manager at the Mayfair Theatre in Brooklyn; Joseph Jackson, assistant manager of the Midwood, Brooklyn, has been transferred to the Rialto, in Brooklyn, in the same capacity; William White, assistant manager of the Rialto, has been transferred to the Midwood.

Harriet Crouse Promoted

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23. — Harriet Crouse, West Coast director of publicity for the Mutual-Don Lee Network, has been appointed coordinator of press information at Mutual's Hollywood office, to expand publicity and exploitation for network shows originating here.

New Denver 1st-Run

DENVER, Feb. 23.—The Broadway, long a last-run, will go into the first-run bracket with "Love Laughs at Andy Hardy", with prices boosted to 35c-74c, prevailing first-run prices here.

Buys Brooklyn Theatre

David L. Cannoid has purchased the 2,200-seat DeKalb Theatre in Brooklyn on an auction bid of $65,000.

SMASH-UP

The Story of a Woman!

TRADE C
THE STO

IT RATES TOP TIME IN ALL SITUATIONS AND FIGURES

"Producer Walter Wagner presents with understanding, intelligence and without preachment or other undue underscoring a narrative portrait of an alcoholic. It is a fine picture, and appears guaranteed to do tremendous business. It rates top time in all situations and figures to set records both as to grosses and satisfied customers.

"There is far reaching power in the theme and impact as well as taste and discrimination in the handling given it."

—WILLIAM R. WEAVER, MOTION PICTURE HERALD

SHOULD DO GOOD BIZ

". . . a highly interesting and capable job that should do good biz in all situations . . . exhibs will capitalize from good word-of-mouth, especially from the distaffs."

—VARIETY

SHOULD BRING BETTER THAN AVERAGE BUSINESS

". . . a strong dose of fascinating drama . . . should entertain in all types of audiences . . . good marquee names and potent exploitation possibilities should bring better than average business."

—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

ONE OF THE BEST

"Walter Wanger has one of the best pictures he has made in recent years with a subject as hot as 'The Lost Weekend.' This must be labeled, unofficially, as a 'Female Lost Weekend,' and the comment will probably be similar, as well as the success of the film."

—THE EXHIBITOR

"Smash-Up is gripping drama!"

—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

WALTER WANGER presents

SUSAN HAYWARD · LEE BOWMAN
MARSHA HUNT · EDDIE ALBERT

in **SMASH-UP** *the Story of a Woman!*

RITICS CALL IT
RY OF A *SMASH HIT!*

SHOULD RAKE IN BIG "TAKES"

"This Wanger production stands to go places all along the line; realistically socks its message across and should rake in big 'takes'." —*FILM DAILY*

GOOD FOR SUBSTANTIAL GROSSES

. . . a strong, dramatic attraction . . . known in the trade as a woman's picture. The Type is persistently good for substantial grosses, and so is this one." —*MOTION PICTURE DAILY*

DESTINED FOR TOP GROSSES

"It appears inescapable that this Walter Wanger production is destined for top grosses!" —*BOXOFFICE*

FOR SMASH BOXOFFICE

"Smash-Up is gripping dramatization of the story of a female alcoholic. It will hold an audience, especially feminine contingent—and it looks like a certainty for smash boxoffice." —*DAILY VARIETY*

with CARL ESMOND · CARLETON YOUNG · CHARLES D. BROWN

Screenplay by JOHN HOWARD LAWSON • Additional Dialogue by Lionel Wiggam • Original Story by Dorothy Parker and Frank Cavett-Directed by STUART HEISLER • Associate Producer Martin Gabel • Produced by WALTER WANGER

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

Republic Earnings

(Continued from page 1)

of color. This decision was made "in view of the adverse conditions generally prevailing in the securities market since last July," he explained.

Republic's earnings for the 48 weeks covered by the report were equivalent to 38 cents per share on 1,817,860 shares of common stock outstanding, after applying $400,000 on account of the annual dividend required on the outstanding preferred stock.

Net sales and net income from film rentals and royalties amounted to $24,315,593, from which were deducted: $812,301 for the share going to other producers and participants, $8,320,452 for amortization of film costs, $7,595,447 for laboratory costs, $164,888 for depreciation and $5,243,847 for selling, administrative and general expenses (including $1,046,840 for advertising). Earned surplus as of Oct. 26, 1946, stood at $697,940.

The company's balance sheet for Oct. 26 showed total current assets of $18,595,003 and total current liabilities of $9,438,622. Assets in foreign territories amounted to $432,265. Inventories, on the same date, amounted to $18,595,003, broken down into $3,625,147 for released productions, $7,644,714 for completed productions not released, $2,592,877 for productions in process and charges to future productions, plus $1,524,730 for raw materials and miscellaneous items.

"The past year," Yates told stockholders, "witnessed several important developments in the motion picture industry which adversely affected your company. The jurisdictional strike in Hollywood was renewed, causing increases in production costs. On account of the recent sympathetic strike of laboratory technicians, production was decreased at the corporation's film laboratory in Los Angeles."

He added that Republic's accumulated liability on account of retroactive wage settlements was approximately $1,400,000 during the 48-week period.

Referring to the industry anti-trust suit, Yates said that, although Republic is not a party to the action, "the decision caused considerable delay in releasing and distributing newly produced pictures of your corporation." This resulted in increased inventories and delayed collection of income.

Republic's annual stockholders' meeting will be held on April 1, Herbert J. Yates, president, announced at the weekend. Proxy statements, he added, will be mailed to stockholders on or about March 6.

Reagan Invites Mantz

Paul Mantz, winner of last year's Bendix Air Race, and Hollywood stunt-flyer, has accepted the invitation of Charles Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, to be honor guest at the world premiere of "Blaze of Noon" at the Rivoli Theatre here on March 4. The veteran aviator is responsible for the stunt flying in the picture.

SCREENCRAFT PICTURES, INC.
341 West 44th St., N. Y. C. 18
35MM — *Distributors of* — 16MM
FEATURES, WESTERNS, COMEDIES and SHORTS

French Film Decree Not Binding on U.S.

Revival of an old French law which earlier had been viewed as a serious threat to the U. S. film trade in that country has yet to have any effects on Hollywood films, according to the latest Paris information received by John McCarthy, assistant to Gerald Mayer, head of the MPA international division, discloses.

McCarthy said that the decree is apparently directed at countries which were not friendly to the French during World War II. It dictates that films more than two years old cannot be dubbed and that new films must pass through three government agencies in addition to the regular censor.

U. S. companies are now trading under the so-called Blum-Byrnes accord which provides that French exhibitors set aside at least four of every 13 weeks for French product. This will be raised to five weeks after two years and will then go down to three weeks in 1950.

O'Connor Names 49

(Continued from page 1)

gin immediately, and he announced the following 49 appointments to the motion pictures committee: Charles A. and John W. Alicoate, William E. Barry, Martin F. Bennett, Harry Buckley, Frank E. Cahill, Jr., Patrick Casey, T. J. Connors, James P. Cunningham, G. S. Eyssell, Si Fabian, James M. Franey, E. C. Grainger, J. R. Grainger, Al Hovell, William W. Howard, John Kane, Austin Keough, T. J. Martin, Joseph McConville, Charles B. McDonald, Joseph E. McMahon.

Also: James A. Mulvey, John Murphy, William P. Murphy, William J. Murray, Leon Netter, John Nolan, Paul O'Brien, Robert H. O'Brien, Thomas F. O'Connor, Charles L. O'Reilly, E. K. O'Shea, P. A. Powers, Martin Quigley, Charles Reagan, Phil Reisman, Herman Robbins, W. F. Rodgers, George J. Schaefer, C. J. Scollard, William A. Scully, E. H. Seifert, George Skouras, Spyros Skouras, Andrew Subbiondo, Nick Tronolone, Richard F. Walsh and William White.

John S. Burke is chairman of the Cardinal's full committee; John A. Coleman, executive chairman; Frank C. Walker, treasurer; Schaefer, assistant treasurer.

Storm Cut Grosses

(Continued from page 1)

from 20 to 40 per cent, said that while the storm abated Friday the streets remained heavily covered and many potential customers were expected to remain at home over the weekend.

Virginia, Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as New York, were severely hit.

Home offices of a majority of film companies here, and the Motion Picture Association closed about two hours earlier than usual Friday because of travel conditions.

Friday's heavy snowfall caused the postponement until today of the Century Circuit-New York City Board of Education visual education experimental showing at the Rialto Theatre in Brooklyn.

UA—Selznick

(Continued from page 1)

retain joint ownership of UA indefinitely. They are said to have agreed that the shares heretofore held by Selznick and additional treasury stock of United Artists will be retired. The two will own all of the outstanding stock of the company equally and there is no plan to issue additional shares to a new partner.

Selznick was allowed a cash-in valuation of $2,000,000 on the UA shares he held. However, the producer was obligated to the company in the amount of some $1,700,000 for advances on productions, advance advertising and exploitation costs for "Duel in the Sun" and for accounts abroad paid to Selznick representatives by United Artists in countries in which UA had credits and Selznick did not.

Chaplin agreed to withdraw the suit filed against Selznick in New York in 1943, asking an accounting and damages for Selznick's disposal of the production properties of "Keys of the Kingdom," "Claudia," and "Jane Eyre" to 20th Century-Fox. United Artists agreed not to file a contemplated action against Selznick for disposal to RKO Radio of the production assets involved in "Spiral Staircase," "Notorious" and "'Till the End of Time."

Selznick, in turn, agreed to withdraw his $13,500,000 damage action for breach of contract which is pending against UA in Los Angeles courts. The suit was an outgrowth of UA board action last November in declaring Selznick's distribution contract with the company to have been breached and terminating it.

In addition, the settlement provides that UA will continue to distribute four Selznick productions wherever they now are in release. The productions are "Since You Went Away," "Rebecca," "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Spellbound." They have been played off in all but a few foreign territories. Selznick retains the right to withdraw them from UA distribution in territories in which contracts for them have not been made.

The UA board meeting continued until midnight Friday. Numerous differences corollary to the dispute between the company and Selznick were settled. An open wire to Hollywood was maintained linking Chaplin and Selznick with the New York meeting. Miss Pickford was in New York while the session was in progress. She was to have left for the Coast on Saturday.

The settlement was described as "completely amicable." In fact, Selznick now is reported to be negotiating with United Artists for physical distribution of his future product, including "Duel in the Sun." Sales would be handled by the recently formed Selznick Releasing Organization even if such a deal is concluded.

Miss Pickford and Chaplin are said to be in complete agreement on future operations. It is said they are prepared to eliminate for the future all preferential contracts which gave some producers more favorable distribution terms than others. Such arrangements are said to have proven unprofitable to the company in the main and to have been the source of much dissatisfaction among the company's less favored producers.

U.S. Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

line set for filing appeals.

Although Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, told Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright in a hearing on Jan. 22 that the Department's position, with respect to competitive bidding, was to see it "given a trial in actual operation," the appeal declares that the system would "harm the independent producers, distributors and exhibitors more than it would the major defendants in the case."

The Government's stand on bidding, tied in with its long-anticipated appeal for the divorcement of affiliated theatres, is backed up with the declaration that the basic issue has become "one of judicial power rather than the mere exercise of judicial discretion," adding, "If the district court is right in its assumption that the untried and unenforceable competitive bidding relief is an adequate substitute for the traditional divestiture relief, and complete prohibition of future agreement among the guilty defendants, then a proceeding under section four of the Sherman Act has become an instrument for protecting an established monopoly from either effective judicial or legislative correction," the Department states.

Government Criticizes Court

As forecast Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the Government's appeal holds that the New York court "erred as a matter of law in concluding that any of the defendants may make valid clearance agreements for the purpose of protecting any exhibitor from competition." Also, "in concluding that major defendants had not actually achieved a monopoly in exhibition, either singly or collectively, and that all of the defendants had not actually collectively achieved a monopoly of distribution," as well as in failing to order "the ultimate divorcement of the major defendants' theatre holdings from their distribution and production activities" and to "restrain them from licensing films in each other's theatres while such relief is being effectuated."

Commentary Filed

A commentary filed by Acting Solicitor General George T. Washington declares, with regard to the defendants' control and ownership of first-run theatres, that the New York decree "does nothing to disturb the continuance of this dominance because the opinion did not find it to be unlawful, despite the fact that it has been acquired and maintained by unlawful means."

"The defendants," the commentary continues, "have not competed with each other either in buying or selling films in the past, and there is nothing in the decree to induce such competition."

"In light of recent decisions," the brief declares, "the court's failure to find any monopolization of exhibition seems inexplicable. The areas of commerce embraced by the defendants' theatre operations were sufficiently large to be the subject of monopolization, even though the defendants might not be regarded as having ever intended to secure a nationwide monopoly of exhibition."

An "Assignment of Errors," filed under the signature of Wendel Berge,

(Continued on following page)

U.S. Appeal

(Continuing from preceding page)

head of the Department's anti-trust division, along with Wright, his assistant, attacks the New York court's judgment at 25 points, questioning virtually every provision of the decree except its official abolition of industry arbitration. The court erred, according to the Government, as follows:

"In concluding that the relief granted is adequate to prevent the guilty defendants from unreasonably restraining competition in the motion picture business in the future.

"In concluding that the major defendants had not actually achieved a monopoly in exhibition, either collectively or singly.

"In not concluding that the defendants had actually achieved a collective monopoly of distribution.

"In failing to prohibit the guilty defendants from making clearance agreements in the future.

"In failing to prohibit the continued use by the major defendants of each other's theatres as exhibition outlets for each other's films.

Theatre Holdings

"In failing to order ultimate divorcement of the distribution and production businesses of the major defendants from their theatre operations.

"In failing to require the major defendants to divest themselves of all their theatre holdings.

"In failing to prohibit absolutely any future acquistion of theatre interests by the major defendants.

"In failing to prohibit the major defendants from continuing to exhibit their own films in their own theatres upon terms which discriminate against their competitors.

"In decreeing competitive bidding as appropriate relief in situations where the defendants' theatres were in competition with independent theatres.

"In failing to require that all competitive bids be stated in terms of flat rental.

"In concluding that none of the defendants had attempted to monopolize or conspired to monopolize or restrain trade in the business of producing motion pictures.

"In concluding that the factor of print cost would confine exhibition to high-priced theatres unless a system of successive runs protected by clearance is employed.

Fair Protection

"In concluding that a grant of clearance when not accompanied by a fixing of admission prices or by an undue extension as to area or duration affords a fair protection to the licensee without unreasonably interfering with the public interest.

"In concluding that the fixing of clearance in license contracts or by other agreements is essential to the reasonable conduct of the motion picture business.

"In concluding that competition can be introduced into the present system of fixing admission prices, clearances, and runs by requiring a defendant-distributor, when licensing its features, to grant the license for each run at a reasonable clearance (if clearance is involved) to the highest bidder.

"In concluding that the percentage of features on the market which any of the five major defendants might play in its own theatres would be so small as in no wise to approximate a monopoly in film exhibition.

"In concluding that the competitive bidding decreed by it would make it impossible for the defendants to discriminate unreasonably in favor of circuit theatres and against independents.

"In concluding that a defendants' interest of five per cent or less of a theatre investment in which others are also interested was *de minimis* and only to be treated as an inconsequential investment in exhibition.

"In concluding that the defendants' theatre holdings are not large enough to permit them, individually or collectively, to have a monopoly of exhibition.

"In concluding that there was or would be under its decree adequate competition between theatres operated by the major defendants in any city.

"In concluding that certain theatres which had used the product of more than one distributor in the past could not operate on the product of one distributor in the future.

"In concluding that the illegalities and restraints found to exist in the industry did not lie in or result from the ownership of theatres by the major defendants.

"In concluding that total theatre divestiture would be injurious to the corporations concerned and would be damaging to the public.

"In concluding that such divestiture would not remedy the illegal practices found by it which had unreasonably restricted competition in the industry."

The Government cites the Schine and Crescent decisions to support its contentions as to an exhibition monopoly and contends that the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the American Tobacco case "clearly establishes that a finding of possession of monopoly power is not dependent upon proof of overt acts by which it is exercised against a particular competitor. The American Tobacco decision also shows that the percentage of the market controlled by two or more parties to a conspiracy to monopolize may be aggregated," the brief adds.

The Department also cites the Interstate Circuit case to refute the assumption that "a film distributor may adopt licensing restrictions by agreement with an exhibitor which are calculated to protect the licenses from competition. If such agreements are to be sanctioned at all," it declares, "their legality must apparently be made to rest upon protection of the licensor, which owns the copyright in the film licensed. But it is hardly possible to justify the making of any such agreements in the future by defendants found to have made in the past the persistent and widespread use of them found in this case."

Outright Dismissal Asked

The Government's action on Friday had been preceded by the filing of appeals on behalf of the non-theatre-owning defendants—United Artists and Universal, seeking outright dismissal of the charges against them, while Columbia asks reversal of the single sales, competitive bidding and "arbitrary refusal" provisions. Among the theatre-owning defendants, Paramount plans to appeal, and Loew's has been working on an appeal document. Twentieth Century-Fox officials have declared that an appeal by their company is unlikely, while RKO and Warner Brothers have not yet revealed their intentions.

The American Theatres Association and the Confederacy of Southern Associations will appeal from the denial of their intervention petitions.

The New York court's decree is scheduled to become effective April 1, except for single sales, competitive bidding and the dissolution of pools and leases between the theatre-owning defendants and independent exhibitors, which have been ordered as of July 1, and the partial divestiture clause, full compliance with which is mandatory by Dec. 31, 1948. Some or all of the appellants, however, may ask the Supreme Court for an additional stay of various provisions.

Details of the New York court's final decision were published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 2.

Reviews

"Beat the Band"

(*RKO Radio*)

OFFERING the delectable Frances Langford with some good tunes, plus radio's funnyman Ralph Edwards, who illumines the proceedings wherever the script permits, and Gene Krupa, drum-beater extraordinary, "Beat the Band" is light, quite merchandisable, and seemingly capable of holding its own.

Playing opposite Miss Langford in the romance department, Phillip Terry, bandleader, finds that his money has been squandered by his manager, Edwards, thus leaving him without a band. Edwards seeks to make amends by way of a little promotion, using "borrowed" funds—money sent by Miss Langford's mother for the girl's musical education. Many complications set in, particularly when the ruse is exposed on Terry's opening night. The yarn is played for laughs mostly and with welcome musical interludes. The songs are "Kissin' Well," "I'm in Love," and "I've Got My Fingers Crossed."

June Clayworth, Mabel Paige, Andrew Tombes, Donald MacBride and Mira McKinney also appear in the Michel Kraike production, which was directed by John A. Auer. Lawrence Kimble did the screenplay, from George Abbott's stage musical.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

GENE ARNEEL.

"Jungle Flight"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 23

THE Pine-Thomas talent for telling a straight adventure story in a manner to get the most out of it is on display here in characteristic effectiveness, extracting a maximum of entertainment from a story about American commercial freight pilots in a Latin-American country who encounter dangers both mechanical, natural, and human. Robert Lowery, Ann Savage and Bart McLane are the top names, Peter Stewart directed, with emphasis on movement.

The screenplay, by Whitman Chambers, from an original story by David Lang, opens with Lowery and Douglas Blackley engaged in flying ore from a jungle mine site to a port city in an unnamed Latin-American country. Blackley dies in a plane crash, under circumstances setting up a feeling of responsibility on Lowery's part, and the latter determines to give up his roistering ways and earn enough to support Blackley's family. Ann Savage, fleeing an annulled husband and paroled criminal who has pursued her to the country, persuades Lowery to fly her to the mine, where she engages as cook. The criminal, played by Douglas Fowley, traces her to the mine, is caught up with and arrested by local police, but slugs his guard and escapes with the girl in a small plane which is forced down. Lowery locates the grounded party, and fights with the criminal, but the girl kills the latter and a happy ending follows. It is a joint production of the Williams Pine and Thomas.

Running time, 60 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

RCA Video Sets to Los Angeles Soon

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—RCA Victor will open a television receiver campaign here with a series of dealer meetings on Feb. 26-27, to be held in cooperation with the Leo J. Meyberg Co., the company's distributor in this area. This will be followed by installation of sample receivers in franchised dealer stores. The company then plans to send "several carloads" of sets to the area in March for the public. RCA introduced television receivers along the same lines recently in St. Louis, Detroit and Washington.

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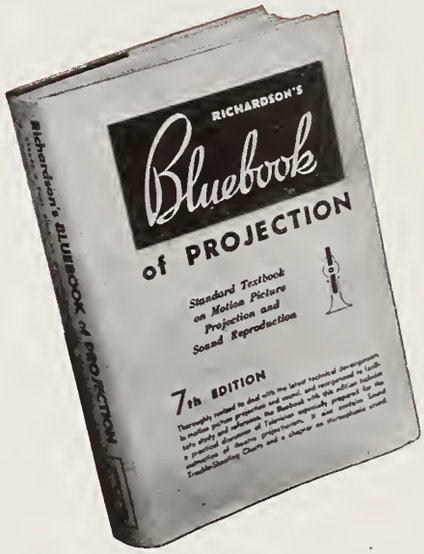

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VOL. 61. NO. 38 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1947 TEN CENTS

2 of 4 Groups To End Strike In Hollywood

Walsh Sees Full Coast Peace at Early Date

An imminent return to work by members of two of Hollywood's four striking studio union groups, affiliates of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Building Service Employees International, was predicted here yesterday by Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, who has returned from an extended stay on the Coast following the "IA" executive board's mid-winter meeting last month in Seattle.

Walsh is convinced that the prolonged labor disruption at the studios will be cleared up entirely within a short time. The electrical workers, management of whose local has been taken over by international headquarters, and the building service employees will be back on the job as soon as a few details have been ironed out, he said, adding that the two remaining groups, affiliates

(*Continued on page 6*)

Dietz, Blumenstock In NY Ad Bill Fight

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—Veto of the Wilson-Condon bill, which would empower the New York State Censors to reject a film the advertising material of which is found objectionable was urged on Gov. Thomas Dewey today by a group representing the industry as well as by the American Civil Liberties Union.

A delegation from New York ex-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Pal Enters Feature Production, Sets 3

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—George Pal is entering the feature production field with three budgeted at $1,500,000 each on his schedule and has simultaneously dropped his Puppetoon program in the face of "prohibitive production costs" of those Technicolor short subjects, released through Paramount. Retirement of the Pal Puppetoon characters was announced by the producer on his return from New York where he completed financing details.

Johnston Asks Mediation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Hollywood jurisdictional strike could have been prevented if an unbiased referee had been appointed to settle the dispute, Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, said here today.

Johnston made his statement at a press conference at which a report was issued by the Committee for Economic Development dealing with means of more constructive collective bargaining between labor and management. Johnston was head of the C. E. D. group which drafted the report and recommendations.

The organization said that Congress should provide a "greatly strengthened" Federal mediation service. The Johnston report stated that a good remedy for jurisdictional strikes would be a ban on secondary boycotts and "equalization" of the rights of management under the Wagner Act.

New UA Amity Era Wins Chaplin Film

Strong indications that Charles Chaplin will turn over his new production, "Monsieur Verdoux," to United Artists for distribution appear as the first evidence of the new era of harmony in the company resulting from the centering of sole ownership of United Artists in Chaplin and Mary Pickford.

There is no legal compulsion upon Chaplin to deliver the picture, a murder mystery with comedy overtones, to United Artists, and other

(*Continued on page 7*)

UA Verbal Pact Replaces Directive

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—A written directive from individual United Artists' producers to vice-president Gradwell Sears, authorizing sales chiefs to disregard releasing contract clauses incompatible with procedures imposed by the government decree, was dispensed with today in favor of a verbal understanding pledging the producers' sales representatives to cooperate fully with the distributor in preventing infractions.

The decision came at a closed, two-hour meeting of producers and attorneys with Sears and UA counsel Edward Raftery, which followed a meeting attended by the same

(*Continued on page 7*)

Two Tax Proposals In California

Sacramento, Feb. 24.—When the California legislature reconvenes on March 3, theatremen will not only face a daylight saving bill, but also a state admission tax measure. The two bills were presented at the last session and were defeated.

Also, the board of supervisors of San Francisco is considering the levying of an admission tax, and theatremen are battling to kill this proposal.

'Aid Britain Through More Playing Time'

Emphatic in his conviction that England would not draft further restrictive legislation aimed principally at American product, Murray Silverstone, president of 20th Century-Fox International, yesterday voiced a plea for a drive by the U. S. industry, and more particularly exhibitors, to gain greater playing time here for British product as a source of foreign (U. S.) currency to help

(*Continued on page 6*)

British Import Cut Threatened for '48

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Unless the gap between Britain's aggregate import volume and the country's lagging volume of exports can be closed during the remainder of this year, imports of American motion pictures and tobacco will have to be reduced, it was clearly implied although not expressly stated in the government's "Economic Survey for 1947," issued here at the weekend.

Single Trial Ruled For Lightman Suit

MEMPHIS, Feb. 24.—Federal Judge Marion S. Boyd has held that the $2,910,000 suit for monopoly damages against M. A. Lightman and others must be heard at a single trial. Judge Boyd denied a motion by the defendants asking that the suit be divided into a series of small suits, and ruled that the joint complaint must be an-

(*Continued on page 6*)

D. of J. Sees US Policing Final Decree

Believes Anti-Trust Unit Should Do Job

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—It is the opinion of Justice Department anti-trust men that eventual policing of the final decree in the pending New York industry law suit may rest with the Government and possibly the anti-trust division where the case originated.

This was brought out here by Robert L. Wright, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, who asserted that he thinks enforcement in any anti-trust litigation is ultimately left to the Justice Department anti-trust division.

There has been considerable discussion regarding special arbitration boards, or a Federal Trade Commission unit to enforce the final judgment of the U. S. Supreme Court after appeal arguments are heard some time

(*Continued on page 7*)

21 Outlets Ready For Selznick Films

Film depots for physical distribution of David O. Selznick product already have been established in 21 key cities by National Film Distributors, with more to follow if needed, Neil Agnew, president of Selznick Releasing Organization, announced yesterday.

The deal, which was closed by Milton S. Kusell, general sales manager of SRO, provides Selznick with film vault, inspection and shipping facili-

(*Continued on page 7*)

National Allied Dues To Go Up One-Third

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Stanley D. Kane, executive director of North Central Allied, reporting on his attendance at the recent National Allied board meeting and election in Washington early this month, with NCA president Ben Berger, has disclosed that the national organization's board approved, in principle, an increase of one-third in dues to be paid annually by regional units.

In This Issue

"The Fabulous Dorseys" is reviewed on page 7.

Personal Mention

OSCAR DOOB, Loew's executive, left Hollywood by plane for New York.

•

ANDREW MAYO, M-G-M studio executive, is due to arrive in Philadelphia shortly from the Coast. He plans to go into business with his brother WILLIAM DEMAYO, Philadelphia booking agent.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, Central sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, has returned to New York from Rochester, Minn., where he underwent an operation at the Mayo Clinic.

•

ADOLPH ZUKOR, Paramount board chairman, will leave on Friday for Tucson, Ariz., for a month's vacation. He will return here on April 1st.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal-International Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave New York today for Toronto.

•

EPIFANIO ARAMAYO, United Artists publicity director in Argentina, arrived here yesterday by plane from Buenos Aires.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation director, will leave New York today by plane for Lincoln, Neb.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ, executives of Kay Film Exchanges, are in New York from Washington and Atlanta.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion field exploitation manager, is due to arrive in Boston today from New York.

•

TED MORRIS of M-G-M's studio publicity department has arrived in New York from Chicago.

•

CHARLES STERN, Loew's treasurer, will leave Hollywood for here on March 5.

Broidy Names Porter Sales Contract Head

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—William Z. Porter, traveling auditor for Monogram for the past six years, has been appointed by president Steve Broidy to head the company's sales contract department. In addition to his new duties, Porter will continue as auditor of Monogram's exchange at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

Film Classics Opens Kansas City Branch

Film Classics has acquired a newly-modernized branch office in Kansas City through a lease negotiated by L. F. Durland, Film Classics' branch manager there.

Jack Kloepper, formerly franchise holder, has been placed in charge of Film Classics' recently acquired branches in Portland and Seattle.

Williams Due for ATA Appeal Meeting

Paul Williams, counsel for the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, is expected here shortly, probably tomorrow, from Los Angeles, to confer with Robert Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association, and Thurman Arnold, counsel, on the drafting of both organizations' joint appeal of the denial of their intervention petition in the New York anti-trust case. Williams will remain here to attend the meeting on the proposed motion picture forum at the Hotel Astor, March 10.

Atlanta Censoring Powers Curtailed

ATLANTA, Feb. 24.—Mayor William B. Hartsfield has recalled and vetoed a council-approved measure authorizing him, the Council and the Carnegie Library Board to delegate to the local censors such powers as they deem proper in censoring exhibitions in Atlanta.

Hartsfield said the measure inadvertently was placed in a batch of approved measures and that he had recalled it from City Clerk Joe L. Richardson. The measure was passed at a council session after having been presented by Ald. Ed. A. Gilliam. Hartfield said he will write a message to accompany the veto, setting forth his belief that the matter should have more study and the fact that it had never been considered by the Library Board, which is headed by Aubery Milam. The board hears appeals on decisions of the censors banning films.

H. Gluckman Forms Theatre Screen Firm

Herman Gluckman has been named president of the recently organized Nu-Screen Corp. with offices in New York.

The appointment marks Gluckman's return to active work in the industry after a five-year association by invitation with the War Activities Committee, of which he served as chief of distribution and later succeeded Arthur Mayer as treasurer, in addition. During the formation of Republic Pictures in 1935, he acquired franchises for New York and Eastern Pennsylvania, which he relinquished to the company in 1940.

In association with the Sparks-Withington Co. of Jackson, Mich., Nu-Screen is the developer, manufacturer, and sole distributor of a new type of screen made of fibre glass.

Eight Universal Reissues

Universal yesterday officially confirmed its plan to reissue eight pictures as double bills. They are: "Destry Rides Again" and "When the Daltons Rode," "Magnificent Obsession" and "100 Men and a Girl," "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man" and "I Stole a Million," "Frankenstein" and "Dracula."

New Canadian Unit Will Handle E-L

TORONTO, Feb. 24.—International Film Distributors, Ltd., has been organized here to handle the Hollywood productions of Eagle-Lion interests separately from Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, which will continue to be the Canadian distributor of Arthur Rank's product from Britain, Australia, and other countries.

A Toronto group associated with 20th Century Theatres, a circuit linked with Famous Players Canadian Corp., recently made a trip to New York to start arrangements for the deal. The group included N. A. Taylor, president of 20th Century Theatres, Harry S. Mandell, also with that company and other enterprises, and Harry J. Allen and David Griesdorf, president and general sales manager, respectively, of Producers Releasing Corp. Taylor is also interested in Canadian PRC.

The Taylor-Allen group organized Anglo-American Film Co. last year, with offices in Toronto, to distribute British Grand National and other British product in the Dominion. The 20th Century circuit is made up of more than 50 theatres in Ontario and operates on a partnership basis with Famous Players.

Australian Studios Open to U.S.: Hall

Australian studios will have difficulty increasing production schedules this year due to a continued lack of needed equipment which is not expected to be filled before 1948, Kenneth Hall, managing director of Cinesound Studio, Sydney, Australia, reported here yesterday.

Hall is in New York en route to Hollywood for a visit before returning to Australia. He arrived here from England last week following production conferences with J. Arthur Rank and examination of the prospect of equipment deliveries by British manufacturers. Rank's controlling interest in Cinesound will have no effect whatever on American companies which may wish to produce in Australia for monetary, quota or other purposes, Hall reported. Production facilities will be available in Australia exactly as they have been in the past, he said.

'Dimes' Total Higher

ALLIANCE, O., Feb. 24.—Ray Wallace, president of Tri-State Theatres which operates all of Alliance's four theatres, the Morrison, Columbia, Strand and Mount Union, reports March of Dimes collections bigger this year than last, for a total of $2,015, against last year's $1,403.

'Henry V' in Albany

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—J. Arthur Rank's "Henry V" has been booked to play the Colonial here, regularly a subsequent run, on a two-a-day, reserved seat basis, for one week beginning March 10.

Paramount Officials Back from Florida

Leonard L. Goldenson, president of Paramount Theatre Service Corp.; Leon D. Netter, vice-president, and Louis Phillips and Walter Gross of Paramount's legal department returned to New York yesterday from St. Augustine, Fla., where meetings with the company's theatre partners were held throughout last week. Barney Balaban, Paramount's president, is due to arrive today, while Austin C. Keough, general counsel, who took part in the sessions, will remain in Florida until around April 1.

Current theatre problems, especially in light of the industry anti-trust suit, were canvassed at the meeting.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
"THE YEARLING"
GREGORY PECK - JANE WYMAN
CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
In Technicolor - An M-G-M Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45 ST.
ON SCREEN HELD OVER M-G-M's 'TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY'
IN PERSON RICHARD HIMBER and ORCH.

BARRY FITZGERALD
DIANA LYNN · SONNY TUFTS
in "EASY COME, EASY GO"
A Paramount Picture
in Person THE INK SPOTS ELLA FITZGERALD TIP TAP & TOE STUMP & STUMPY Extra! COOTIE WILLIAMS His Trumpet and His Orchestra
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND BARBARA STANWYCK BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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The same

GLENN FORD

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Gilda !

Columbia Pictures
presents

Glenn FORD

in

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JANIS CARTER · BARRY SULLIVAN

EDGAR BUCHANAN · KAREN MORLEY · JIM BANNON

Screenplay by Ben Maddow · Directed by RICHARD WALLACE · Produced by JULES SCHERMER

Goo-o-o-d Night!

HAVE YO
GO OVER

Paulette
Goddard

Fred
MacMurray

with

MACDONALD CAREY · ARLEEN WHELAN

A
MITCHELL LEISEN
PRODUCTION

Produced by CLAUDE BINYON

Directed by MITCHELL LEISEN

Screen Play by Claude Binyon and P. J. Wolfson
Original Story by P. J. Wolfson

"Sudd

YOU'VER HEARD THE TRADE BOYS HEARD LIKE THIS – EVEN FOR A Paramount PICTURE !

"A joy entertainment-wise for the audience...and box-office-wise for the exhibitor. Goddard and MacMurray give it all the color and ginger it needs."—*M. P. Daily*

"Laughter will be so loud and continuous that spectators are apt to miss much of the crisp dialog. That should happen to more pictures. Sure to score solidly."—*Boxoffice*

"One of those extraordinary pictures that turns out just as funny as its makers hoped. Paramount hasn't had as gay and riotous a farce to release in many moons."—*Hollywood Reporter*

"Socko. Will pay off in all situations. Topnotch script, lusty laughs. Goddard and MacMurray troup to the hilt."—*Variety*

"A smart piece of showmanship of which Paramount may be proud. Assured high popularity from its opening scene. Gay, rollicking comedy is credit in all departments."—*Daily Variety*

"A *must*...light and gay...plenty of comedy. Pace is fast and will provide many a belly-laugh."—*The Independent*

enly It's Spring"

ON BROADWAY

World Premiere
At the Paramount Tomorrow

And Paramount Will Spring Its Next Great Grosser *Nationally*
On The First Day Of Spring!

Dull Week at NY First Runs

Total grosses for the week at New York's first runs are for the most part poor, with the stormy weather of last Thursday and Friday lopping off much potential income.

"The Beginning or the End" appeared an obvious casualty with only $88,000 anticipated for the first week at the Capitol. Actually, this is a good figure but it is short of what might have been expected under normal conditions. Kathryn Grayson tops the stage bill. At the Rialto it was said the weather kept "Michigan Kid" from taking the record crown. A total of $15,500 is looked for in the first week.

"The Strange Woman," however, escaped the effects of the storm with a Saturday opening at the Globe. A strong $18,000 for the first two days indicates a first week's total of $40,000. At the Hollywood, "Nora Prentiss" promises to bring $35,000 in a first week, and this, too, might have been better. The same holds for "I'll Be Yours" at the Winter Garden where only $22,000 is estimated for an initial week.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" fell a little below its usual take with $51,000 seen for the 14th week. "The Yearling" in a fifth and final week at the Music Hall should draw $110,000. "The Sea of Grass" is to follow on Thursday.

"The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," which gave the Roxy close to $120,000 in its opening week, is down to an estimated $80,000 for a second week; Peter Lorre, Gil Lamb and Evelyn Knight are on the stage.

At the Strand, "That Way with Women," with Claude Thornhill's orchestra, Alan Hale and Martha Vickers on the stage is moderate at $40,000 for the second week. The third and final week of "Easy Come, Easy Go" is good for $61,000 at the Paramount; Ella Fitzgerald and the Ink Spots are on the stage. "Suddenly It's Spring" will open tomorrow with Johnny Long's crew, Joan Edwards and Buddy Lester in person.

The sixth week of "California" probably will give the Rivoli a fair $25,000. The Victoria looks for $14,500 in a third week of "Bedelia," which is about average.

"San Quentin" is down to $10,000, estimated, in a third week at the Gotham; "Angel and the Badman" will follow on Mar. 1. "Henry V" grossed an estimated $9,000 in its 26th week of a moveover run at the John Golden Theatre.

N.Y. Ad Bill Fight

(*Continued from page* 1)

pressed objections to the measure, which already has passed both houses of the legislature, in a meeting with Charles Breitel, Dewey's counsel, and others. The group comprised Howard Dietz, advertising-publicity chief of M-G-M and a vice-president of Loew's; Mort Blumenstock, Warner vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity; Stanleigh Friedman, Warner vice-president and counsel, and, representing the Motion Picture Association, Sidney Schreiber, counsel, Glendon Allvine, New York director of public relations, and Gordon White, director of the Eastern Advertising Code Administration.

SWG Asks Producers To End Studio Strike

Hollywood, Feb. 24. — In a telegram signed by Screen Writers Guild President Emmet Lavery, the SWG urges producers to "make every effort to open negotiations with striking unions so that their return to work may be arranged without delay."

The action followed a SWG membership meeting, at which it was disclosed that the SWG executive board had been meeting with a producers' committee in an attempt to find means of settling the dispute.

Ending Strike

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, will not be long in following.

The locals which initiated the strike, most of them making up the Conference of Studio Unions, are thoroughly defeated, in the opinion of Walsh, who ordered his "IA" workers to stay on the job at the outset and took over management of his union's film technician's local when its members joined the walkout. Numerous replacement employes sent in by the "IA" will have to be "kept on" in the final settlement, and the producers this time will not put up money for a double payroll, as they did in helping bring the preceding strike to an end, he declared, indicating that work priority will go to "IA" members. Walsh estimates that between 2,000 and 3,000 workers still are on strike, "although the other side claims 7,000."

Recalling that a disagreement between CSU and "IA" studio carpenters started the present walkout, Walsh would like to see the avoidance of strikes growing from jurisdictional disputes, but he is doubtful that legislation to "outlaw" them, such as is now pending in Washington, will prove effective. He pointed out that compulsory arbitration would be necessary and cited the present Hollywood difficulty as an instance in which one side failed to live up to the arbitration decision.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Jurisdictional strikes will "definitely" be outlawed when Congress takes final action on labor legislation, Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio) said here today.

Taft asserted that the jurisdictional dispute in Hollywood is a good example of the industrial chaos and tie-up which can result.

Illinois Allied Votes

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—The annual election of officers of Allied of Illinois will be held tomorrow at the Continental Hotel here. Jack Kirsch in all probability will be reelected president.

'Ramrod' Sets Record

Enterprise's "Ramrod" grossed $6,832 at its world premiere at the Utah Theatre, Salt Lake City, Saturday and Sunday, to break the previous house record by 30 per cent.

Paramount May Be Alone on Price Cut

Other Broadway theatres do not plan to cut admission prices, a check-up disclosed yesterday, following the Paramount's weekend announcement that some of its weekday, Saturday and Sunday price scales had been lowered, effective tomorrow, in deference to a public opinion survey which Paramount managing director Robert M. Weitman held demonstrated that the public is shopping for bargains in entertainment. In announcing the theatre's new price scales, which will effect an over-all average price drop of about four cents, Weitman forecast a general trend toward lowered admission prices. The New York Paramount's action, he said, however, is not being taken by any other theatre in the Paramount circuit.

Yesterday the Paramount gave the news of its new price policy to the public through five-column by 14-inch announcements in the daily newspapers. The advertisements highlighted the theatre's new weekday opening price of 55 cents, compared with a former 70 cents.

The cut in weekday opening admission price represents generally the biggest drop, the scale falling from the present average of about 78 cents to 55 cents. Other new prices were quoted in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday. Midnight show prices will be lowered 10 cents for weekdays, and 25 cents on Saturdays. For the most part afternoon and evening price scales have been raised and lowered slightly to establish some compensation for the weekday slash, making for an over-all average drop from 97 cents to 93 cents.

Maloney, 10 Others Promoted by Para.

Edward Maloney, for 23 years with Paramount, currently in the Boston exchange, has been named sales manager in that area, by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of the company's distribution.

At the same time Reagan also disclosed 10 other promotions, all of non-exchange managerial status, in various of the company's branches, including Harold Wycoff, Edward Fitter, Jr., and Joseph Murphy, New Orleans; Wendell Clement, Boston; Bert Turgeon, B. W. Smith and Paul Morgan, Atlanta, and Adolph Trilling, Gerald Frankel and Phil Isaacs, New York.

Anglican Vicar Asks For Film Liaison

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Creation of a liaison office by the Church of England with Hollywood to secure more favorable treatment for its church officials in American films has been suggested by Rev. Brian Hessian, an Aylesbury vicar and chairman of "Bible Films," film production organization of the Church of England. Citing the "politically alert" minority of Catholics in America, he criticized U. S. portrayal of Anglican vicars as "a bit of a buffoon."

Para. Tradescreening

Paramount will screen "The Imperfect Lady" for the trade in all branch areas on Friday, March 7.

Pathe-PRC in Global Expansion of 16mm.

Pathe Industries will enter the 16mm, field on a worldwide basis. Lloyd Lind, vice-president and assistant general sales manager of Producers Releasing Corp., has been named president of Pathe's Pictorial Films, Inc., and will shortly take over complete charge.

Pictorial has operated on a limited basis, confining its catalogue of 16mm. films to PRC releases, and a rest-er number of independent pr-tions. While Pictorial formerly received its revenue solely through agency outlets, the new program provides for the integration of 16mm. films into Producers' exchange system in the United States.

MPEA Names Core Manager for Indies

Charles H. Core, formerly United Artists manager in the Philippines, who has been making an industrial survey of China and the Far East since May, 1946, has been named manager for the Motion Picture Export Association for the Netherlands East Indies, it was announced here yesterday by Irving Maas, MPEA vice-president and general manager.

"Aid Britain"

(*Continued from page* 1)

Britain buck its "severe" economic crisis.

He urged, furthermore, that Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association head, and other top industry executives, scheduled for forthcoming conferences with British government and industry officials, be armed with a mandate to encourage English producers to concentrate on "fewer, but greater" picture through guarantees of wider and longer exhibition in the U. S.

Britain's most immediate problem is to get sufficient foreign exchange to enable here to buy basic necessities, Silverstone, who returned last week from a month's trip abroad, explained. The U. K. is determined to pay her own way, and the American film industry, which finds its biggest foreign market in the British Empire, "should do all that it can to help Britain and the British film industry," he continued.

Lightman Trial

(*Continued from page* 1)

swered in court within 20 days.

Lowell Taylor, attorney for Lightman-Paramount, argued that the average jury will be baffled by the complexity of the case if it is tried jointly. Other arguments supporting the motions held that many defendants in the case would find their cause prejudiced if testimony is heard on a charge that a conspiracy existed in the acquisition of the old Orpheum in 1938 by Lightman. It also was argued two charges of conspiracy were contained in the joint suit, one involving the Orpheum transaction and the other involving clearances of films to neighborhood theatres.

Boyd, in making his ruling, declared he was uncertain as to whether the facts involved in the Orpheum sale would be material and competent.

3 Clearance Awards By Cleveland AAA

With the announcement of three clearance awards, two of which were consolidated, the Cleveland tribunal of the American Arbitration Association has cleared all cases before it, enabling it to liquidate on April 1 under the New York Federal Court decree, unless additional complaints are filed before that date.

Dismissing a complaint against Warner Brothers, the arbitrator in the consolidated award set seven days as the maximum clearance which may be granted in licenses entered into by Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and RKO Radio to the Madison or Ohio Theatres, first run in Madison, Ohio, over the Ashland and Palace in Ashland, and the Castamba in Shelby. The Ashland and Palace are operated by the Schine Ashland Corp., and the Castamba is operated by the Schine Shelby Corp., both of which were complainants in the cases. Mansfield Operating Corp. was an intervenor.

While providing similar clearance in licenses entered into by M-G-M, the arbitrator further held that all clearance "shall be deemed to be waived 21 days after the availability" of the Mansfield theatres, whereas the clearance granted by Paramount, 20th-Fox and RKO would be waived 21 days after Cleveland exchange territorial release dates.

In the second award, involving the Crawford Theatre Co., which operates the Bucyrus and Southern theatres in Bucyrus, Ohio, as complainant, and naming Paramount, M-G-M and RKO Radio as defendants, the arbitrator ruled that the Palace and Marion theatres, first-run in Marion, Ohio, operated by Northio Theatre Corp., intervenor, shall play ahead of the complainant's houses, which may play Paramount and RKO Radio product immediately following Marion, Ohio, or 21 days after Cleveland territorial release dates, which ever is earlier. In the case of M-G-M product, the award stipulated that the complainant's houses play within 21 days after availability.

UA Oral Pact

(*Continued from page* 1)

people on Feb. 17. It followed the gradual elimination provisions in the directive, originally asked by Sears, to the point where the document was deemed unnecessary.

In an extended discussion of new conditions affecting the company's special sales problems, Sears and Raftery pointed out that it will not be possible to maintain rigidly the present standardized designation of certain theatres as first-run, nor to reject arbitrarily exhibition deals on the basis of admission price.

Buffalo, Feb. 24.—The climax of United Artists' four-day sales meeting, being held at the Statler Hotel since Saturday morning, will take place tomorrow when Edward C. Raftery, company president; J. J. Unger, general sales manager, and Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., director of advertising-publicity, will outline selling and promotional methods to the delegates in relation to the New York Federal Court decree decision, and otherwise. The three executives left New York City tonight for the meeting. Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern sales manager is presiding.

Review

"The Fabulous Dorseys"

(*Charles R. Rogers—United Artists*)

Hollywood, Feb. 24

FASHIONED strictly for a public responsive to popular music as dispensed by name bands, Charles R. Rogers' good-humored presentation of the syncopated careers of the Brothers Dorsey—Tommy and Jimmy—contains a lot of the kind of music in which those gentlemen have so successfully specialized. A picture produced with a definitely outlined public in mind, it figures to do very well for itself in exhibition areas where this type of subject matter thrives. And in addition to the names of Tommy and Jimmy for exploitation purposes, there are present also those of Paul Whiteman, Art Tatum, Bob Eberly, Henry Busse, and others with their own followings in "hep" circles.

As written by Richard English, Art Arthur and Curtis Kenyon, the story opens in 1916 with the Dorsey boys learning music under the tutelage of their coal-miner father. They are repeatedly in brotherly conflict, which prepares the audience for their ultimate separation when, years later, they have established the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra in the big time. The narrative aspect of the script has to do with the long unrealized ambition of their parents to get them to join forces again, despite their separate successes, and it makes enough of a story to support the wealth of band music which is the principal content of the production.

There is nostalgia in the early sections of the picture, and a bit of history, but the music—performed by both Dorsey bands, by the Whiteman band, by Tatum and the Dorseys, and otherwise—is what the picture is all about. It is expertly played, naturally, and assuredly will satisfy the customers attracted by the title and billing. John W. Rogers acted as associate producer, and Alfred E. Green directed.

In addition to the persons who enact themselves, the cast includes Janet Blair, William Lundigan, Sara Allgood, Arthur Shields, James Flavin, William Bakewell, Dave Willock, Bobby Warde, Buz Buckley, Ann Carter, Tom Dugan, Jack Searl and Andrew Tombes.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, February 21.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Ind. ATOA Calls ASCAP a 'Monopoly'

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—"Because ASCAP has developed into a monopoly never intended by the originators of the copyright law," the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana has thrown its support behind a bill which would affect the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and which has been amended in the Indiana House judiciary committee to give theatres full protection from damages as the result of unlicensed performances. The bill is expected to come up for a third reading in the House tomorrow, and, if passed, it will go back to the Senate for concurrence.

21 Selznick Outlets

(*Continued from page* 1)

ties of film carrier companies which have aligned with the new distribution company on a franchise basis.

James Clark, president of the National Film Carriers Association and of Clark Film Distributors, Philadelphia, is president of the company. Clint Weyer is secretary. The firm's headquarters, temporarily in Philadelphia, will be shifted to New York.

The carrier companies participating are located in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Des Moines, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Denver, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Boston, Agnew's announcement said.

New UA Amity

(*Continued from page* 1)

companies have made overtures to the producer for its distribution. Now, however, with Chaplin sharing equal ownership of UA with Miss Pickford and the two reportedly having reached broad agreements on company operations, there seems little doubt that UA will distribute the new Chaplin picture.

Brotherhood Drive Results 'Best Ever'

The industry-wide promotion of American Brotherhood Week, as sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which concluded Sunday, was the most successful in the 14-year history of the campaign, it was announced yesterday by the motion picture division, of which Spyros P. Skouras is chairman.

A report on pledges and money collected for the continuance of the work will be made at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor here tomorrow.

Robert W. Coyne, co-directer of the campaign action committee, said the drive surpassed anything before in memberships received and educational benefits accrued.

Mochrie Names Kolitz District Manager

Albert L. Kolitz, formerly RKO Radio branch manager at Cleveland, has been promoted to Rocky Mountain district manager, with supervision over Denver and Salt Lake City, effective March 3, Robert Mochrie, company distribution vice-president, disclosed here yesterday.

Kolitz succeeds Len S. Gruenberg, recently made Metropolitan district manager in New York. He joined RKO Radio as a salesman in Cincinnati in Aug., 1936.

Survey Clearance Under Decree

Distributor defendants in the Government's New York anti-trust suit, charged by the Federal District Court with the burden of proof of the legality of their clearance provisions, are undertaking surveys in both competitive and non-competitive areas with a view to adjusting any clearance which might violate the terms of the court's final decision.

In a move believed to be typical of the general procedure, one general sales manager has instructed his company's branch managers to consult with their salesmen for each zone to determine whether there is any clearance granted between theatres not in substantial competition inasmuch as such arrangements are flatly forbidden by the court.

Likewise, the field forces are directed to consider whether any clearance is too long, for the decree prohibits distributors from enforcing "any clearance against theatres in substantial competition with the theatre receiving the license for exhibition in excess of what is reasonably necessary to protect the licensee in the run granted."

D. of J. Sees

(*Continued from page* 1)

this year. It is pointed out, however, that in previous trust suits where special trade practices or divorcement of interests have been ordered the Justice Department was given the enforcement task.

The policing of the industry judgment, regardless of what form it takes, is scheduled to be a difficult and almost impossible job unless an administrative setup is established, it is said. This brings up the possibility of setting up a special anti-trust division unit, which might be headed by Wright, who prosecuted the case.

Regardless of what form the decree will take, enforcement will be necessary, it is believed, if endless litigation within the industry is to be avoided. It is agreed within the Justice Department that enforcement must be handled by a Government agency.

Price Sees UN Stake

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—Byron Price, board chairman of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, commenting on his appointment as assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, said today that he did not feel that "I am completely disassociating myself from the motion picture industry." He said that this industry and all others have a "supreme stake in the U. N."

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 39 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1947 TEN CENTS

US Exhibitors Begin 16mm. Theatre Plans

Small Town Expansion To Take Shape in 1948

Regular commercial theatres for the showing of 16mm. films in towns too small to support 35mm. houses will start springing up throughout the U. S. in approximately one year from now, according to a spokesman for a large Eastern circuit which is presently investigating the situation with a view to entering the new field on a large scale.

Purchase of property for the theatres has been postponed, in most instances, only because of the present shortage of materials and supplies, plus attendant Government restrictions on commercial buildings, it is understood.

The 16mm. theatre development, long popular in other countries, is now spreading rapidly to other parts of Europe and Asia as part of the post-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Iowa Would Censor Films, Ads, Posters

Des Moines, Feb. 25.—A bill to provide for state censorship of motion pictures and posters, banners and other advertising in connection with the showing of films appeared in the Iowa House today.

The measure, introduced by Harvey Long (Rep. of Clinton), is a companion bill to one he offered earlier, which proposes an annual $1,000 license fee for all film distributors.

The new bill proposes to create a

(*Continued on page 7*)

Eight Will Service Red Cross Short

Eight distributiong companies have agreed to service the American Red Cross short, "Call to Action!," to the more than 15,000 theatres expected to run the seven-minute campaign film during March, which has been designated "Red Cross Month." The eight are: Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, Loew-M-G-M, Paramount,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Clark Heads PRC Sales

Ralph H. Clark, veteran of distribution and exhibition, will become general sales manager of Producers Releasing Corp. on Monday.

Ralph H. Clark

Harry H. Thomas, PRC president, in announcing the appointment here yesterday, disclosed that the post was created to enable him to spend more time on the Coast on production. Thomas has also been sales manager heretofore.

"With the increase in the number of problems connected with produc-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Federal Leasing 200 Runs for 'Carnegie'

Exhibition of "Carnegie Hall" during its first year will be handled through the direct leasing of 200 theatres throughout the U. S., Boris Morros, co-producer with William LeBaron of the Federal Films picture, disclosed here yesterday. Federal will do the leasing. A year after the production is given its send-off in New York, in April, probably with a premiere at Carnegie Hall, it will be offered for competitive bidding under the New York Federal Court

(*Continued on page 7*)

Paramount Starts Chicago Bidding

Chicago, Feb. 25. — A third distributor, Paramount, has inaugurated auction bidding here in two competitive situations. Heretofore M-G-M and RKO-Radio were the only two that had adopted bidding in situations locally.

Allen Usher, Paramount district manager, reports that "Two Years Before the Mast" was awarded to Dudley Gazzolo's Imperial and Ben Banowitz's Harmony. Gazzolo's competitor on the bidding was Harry Lubliner, owner of the Four Star, while Banowitz's competitor was M. Altcherler of the Vision Theatre.

Kay Will Set Up National Sales

Kay Film Exchanges, five-city Southern distribution organization, owned by Ike and Harry Katz, will be expanded into a nationwide franchise-operated distribution company for the handling of independently-produced Hollywood features, Ike Katz, who is currently in New York from Washington and Atlanta with his brother, disclosed here yesterday. Framework of the new organization is now being worked out by the brothers, and it is expected that next fall will see operations in full swing he said.

Katz likened the forthcoming venture to the operations pursued by PRC when that company was first formed. In May, he said, he and his

(*Continued on page 8*)

"Odd Man Out"

[*Two Cities-Universal*] — Dramatic Atom Bomb

THE scene is an unidentified city in Northern Ireland, no doubt Belfast. The time is during the war; the story, an incident in the activities of the Irish Republican Army. The action starts at four o'clock and ends at midnight. The result, brilliantly produced and directed by Carol Reed, is the unrelenting and uncompromising drama of a manhunt in what is one of the few outstanding examples of its type and a motion picture which has substantial possibilities of finding ultimate place among the screen's greats.

First, the dramatic outline: James Mason, out of prison and ill, is chief in his city of the illegal organization. Funds are required. A mill is robbed. In the getaway, the group escapes but Mason kills a mill manager who, in turn, badly injures Mason whose companions recoup him temporarily and thereafter lose him when he falls out of the escape car. The remainder of the film deals with the man hunt and Mason's adventures on his road to death. Two of his men are cut down outside the house of an informer. Another, seeking Mason and finding him, draws off the police and is captured, but not before Mason gets a temporary breather.

Hundreds of police are on the trail. The pursued man hides in alleys,

(*Continued on page 8*)

5 Companies To File Joint Appeal Today

20th-Fox in Agreement On 'Limited' Action

The five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit yesterday reached a decision to appeal jointly to the Supreme Court from a number of clauses in the decree handed down last Dec. 31 by the New York Federal District Court. The notice of appeal is expected to be placed on record here this afternoon, pending approval of its language at a meeting of company counsel this morning.

Although details of the appeal have not been announced, prior to the actual filing, Otto Koegel, 20th Century-Fox general counsel, said yesterday it would be a "limited" one, with his company having decided to join Paramount, M-G-M, RKO and Warners on that basis. Previously, 20th-Fox had indicated acceptance of the decree

(*Continued on page 8*)

ATA Intervention Appeal Tomorrow

Washington, Feb. 25.—The legal battle between the Justice Department and the American Theatres Association over intervention in the pending New York anti-trust case will begin Thursday when ATA counsel Thurman Arnold files appeal papers contesting the District Court's

(*Continued on page 7*)

Paramount Ending Last Pool March 1

Paramount's last remaining pooling agreement, with Fox West Coast Theatres, is being dissolved, effective March 1, Leonard L. Goldenson, president of Paramount Theatre Service Corp., reported here yesterday fol-

(*Continued on page 8*)

In This Issue

"The Private Affairs of Bel Ami" is reviewed on page 6. Key city grosses are given on the same page.

CSU Asks Truman To Send Conciliator

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—In a three-pronged effort to induce Government action on the studio strike, the Conference of Studio Unions telegraphed President Truman urging him to "use your good offices to send a Federal conciliator to Hollywood at once." Similar appeals were sent to the Senate Labor Committee and Senator William Langer, chairman of the Commitee on Civil Affairs.

The Senate Labor Committee was told that "This lockout was caused by the Association of Motion Picture Producers conspiring with certain labor leaders to smash free and autonomous unions in Hollywood." The wire urged an investigation.

The telegram to Langer asserted that "independent producers are now the hard-pressed victims of a conspiracy between producers and certain union officials." It asked the committee to subpoena Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers president Donald Nelson and Independent Motion Picture Producers Association president I. E. Chadwick "for immediate inquiry into this aspect of the film monopoly's practices."

Shugrue to Organize Heritage Campaign

Ned Shugrue, public relations director of the American Theatres Association, is being loaned to the American Heritage Foundation to organize and promote the U. S. Government's "Freedom Train," in which the film industry is expected to play a leading part.

An intensive educational campaign designed to promote a greater appreciation of American heritage is planned through the use of all media by means of a national tour of a train housing American documents. The project is sponsored by the U. S. through the Department of Justice.

Shugrue, as national director of motion pictures and special events for the Treasury under Ted Gamble, toured on seven Victory Loan trains during the last war. He will start his new assignment next week.

Company Dividends Hit New High in '46

Washington, Feb. 25.—Film industry dividend payments climbed to a peak of $43,991,000 in 1946, an 86 per cent increase over 1945 when stockholders received $23,665,000, the Commerce Department reports.

Payments during December amounted to $10,889,000, compared to $6,560,000 for the previous year.

Personal Mention

FREDERIC ULLMAN, JR., RKO Pathe president, will leave here today for Coast conferences with RKO officials.

•

GEORGE WELTNER, Paramount International president, will start a globe-circling tour of the company's foreign offices on Sunday when he leave here for the Coast. Accompanying him will be CLEMENT S. CRYSTAL, head of Paramount International's theatre department, and ALBERT DEANE, manager of censorship and editing department.

•

GLENN E. MATTHEWS, technical editor at Kodak Research Laboratories, has been elected an associate member of the Oval Table Society for his contributions to photographic progress.

•

JOEL A. LEVY, chief of Loew's Theatres booking department, and MRS. LEVY announce the engagement of their daughter, LORRAINE, to SAMUEL LEVITT.

•

BABE COHEN, manager of Monogram Southern exchanges, is back at his desk in Atlanta after a business trip through Alabama.

•

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, president of Astor Pictures of Georgia, has returned to Atlanta from Birmingham, Ala.

•

RUTH FREEMAN, statistical clerk in the United Artists exchange, will be married on March 22nd to IRVING DIAMOND.

•

WILLIAM MISKELL, Tri-States Theatres district manager in Omaha, is vacationing in California.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern exchanges in Atlanta, is in Charlotte.

•

SIDNEY MARKLEY, of Paramount's New York theatre department, is visiting in Omaha.

HARRY M. WARNER, president of Warners'; JACK L. WARNER, studio production chief; MILTON SPERLING, head of United States Pictures, and RAOUL WALSH, director, were appointed yesterday as colonels on the staff of Gov. FRANK J. MABRY, of New Mexico, in recognition of their services to that state in the filming of "Pursued."

•

FRANK MCCARTHY, Motion Picture Association head in France; RICHARD ALTSCHULER, president and general manager of Republic International, and IRVING MILLS, of the Mills Music Co., are scheduled to leave New York today for Europe aboard the *SS America*.

•

MAX FELLERMAN, Paramount theatre department executive, left for Cincinnati yesterday to confer with JACK KEEGAN, general manager of Northio Theatres.

•

MILTON OVERMAN has been transferred from Eagle-Lion's Dallas office to Kansas City as publicity representative.

•

H. M. BESSEY, vice-president of Altec, has returned to New York after a five-week business trip to Detroit and the West Coast.

•

JACK KARR, motion picture editor of *The Toronto Daily Star*, was a New York visitor yesterday.

•

SI MEEK, operator of the Anne Theatre at Maysville, Mo., has taken office as clerk of DeKalb County.

•

PAULA GOULD, New York Capitol Theatre publicist, is confined to her home with the grippe.

•

ANGELA LANSBURY, Anglo-American actress, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

HARRY HANDEL, district sales supervisor for Eagle-Lion in Chicago, is in New York.

Two UA Meetings To Start Tomorrow

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 25.—The second of United Artists' current series of sales meetings will get under way at the William Penn Hotel, here, on Thursday and continue through Sunday. The meeting, which will cover the Pennsylvania-Washington and Central districts, will be presided over by Eastern and Canadian sales manager Edward M. Schnitzer. Other speakers will include J. J. Unger, general sales manager, and Paul Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director. Mark N. Silver heads the Pennsylvania-Washington district, Moe Dudelson, the Central district.

EL PASO, Feb. 25.—Maury Orr, United Artists Western division manager, will conduct a four-day Southern and Western district sales meeting here beginning Thursday. Fred M. Jack heads the Southern district, W. E. Collaway the Western.

Kirsch Reelected Ill. Allied Head

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Jack Kirsch was re-elected president of Illinois Allied for a three-year term today. Re-elected for one year terms were Van A. Nomikos, vice-president, and Ben Banowitz, secretary-treasurer.

A 15-man board of directors was elected for one year: Lou H. Harrison, Arthur Davidson, James Gregory, Verne Langdon, Samuel Roberts, Richard Salkin, John Semadales, Charles Nelson, Jack Rose, Harold Gollos, B. Charuhas, Joseph Stern, Howard Lubliner, Al Bartelstein, Ludwig Sussman. Harry Nepo was reappointed sergeant-at-arms.

Kirsch will leave here next week for a month's vacation in Florida.

'Open City' Anniversary

"Open City" has passed its first anniversary at the World Theatre. The film was made in Italy.

Newsreel Parade

LOS ANGELES' explosion is reported in all current newsreels. Also spotlighted are United Nations activities, Columbia University bestowing honors on U. S. Army and Navy leaders, and sundry other events, including the spring training activities of the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants. Full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 52—Nati[illegible] foremost military chiefs of the war h[illegible]ored. Terrific chemical explosion rocks Los Angeles. United Nations Greek mission holds hearings. Youngest set: Crown Princess Juliana of Holland has fourth daughter. Lashley quadruplets celebrate their sixth birthday. Sports: Dodgers and Giants in training, National AAU track meet, French ski meet.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 250—Los Angeles explosion. War leaders honored by Columbia University. "Beginning or the End" premiere in Washington. Tough winter in U. S. and Europe. Holland hails new royal princess. Dodgers train in Havana. Ski meet in France.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 53—Explosion rocks Los Angeles. Snow-blitz snarls New York. France's prettiest envoy to U. S. Columbia "U" honors five-star generals. United Nations investigates Greek crisis. Baseball's big-leaguers in train.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 55—U. S. housing program. Marshall speaks at Princeton. Fashions in the Dominican Republic. Greeks demonstrate. Los Angeles blast.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 16—Fifteen dead, scores injured in Los Angeles explosion. Blizzard blankets East Coast. Columbia University honors Army and Navy leaders. Rioters battle police in Greece during United Nations investigation. Spring baseball training: Giants and Dodgers. St. Johns defeats University of Hawaii in fast basketball game.

Schaefer in Deal For 300 'U' Reissues

George J. Schaefer, Jr., vice-president and treasurer of George J. Schaefer Associates, film financing firm, and John J. Cahill, son-in-law of George J. Schaefer, Sr., plan to set up a company to distribute some 300 Universal reissues, pending finalization of negotiations for acquiring the films, it is understood.

A spokesman for Schaefer interests here yesterday confirmed the fact that the negotiations have been in progress, as did Matthew Fox, Universal executive vice-president. Consummation of the deal, they added, awaits the arrival here from the Coast of Schaefer, Sr., who last week became vice-president in charge of distribution for Enterprise. He is expected at the end of this week.

A.B. Johnson to Coast For Eagle-Lion

Arthur B. Johnson, assistant secretary-treasurer of Eagle-Lion Films since the company's inception, has been appointed chief fiscal officer of the company on the West Coast, and A. E. Bollinger, for three years an assistant controller at Universal, has been named controller at Eagle-Lion, by Arthur B. Krim, E-L president.

In addition to his duties as fiscal head, Johnson will serve as liaison officer between Eagle-Lion and the parent company, Pathe Industries.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

pardon my blushes!

M

WHEN M-G-M's "THE SEA OF GRASS" FOLLOWS M-G-M's "THE YEARLING" AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL—

M-G-M proudly cherishes the honor of showing three of its outstanding attractions in a row at the world-famed Radio City Music Hall. "Till The Clouds Roll By" was followed by "The Yearling", and now a new M-G-M hit, "The Sea of Grass". It is a mark of distinction for a motion picture to be selected for exhibition at the Music Hall—and three-in-a-row is a record for which M-G-M is deeply grateful to the Music Hall and its patrons.

"THE YEARLING"
IN TECHNICOLOR
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AND NOW A NEW M-G-M HIT!

SPENCER

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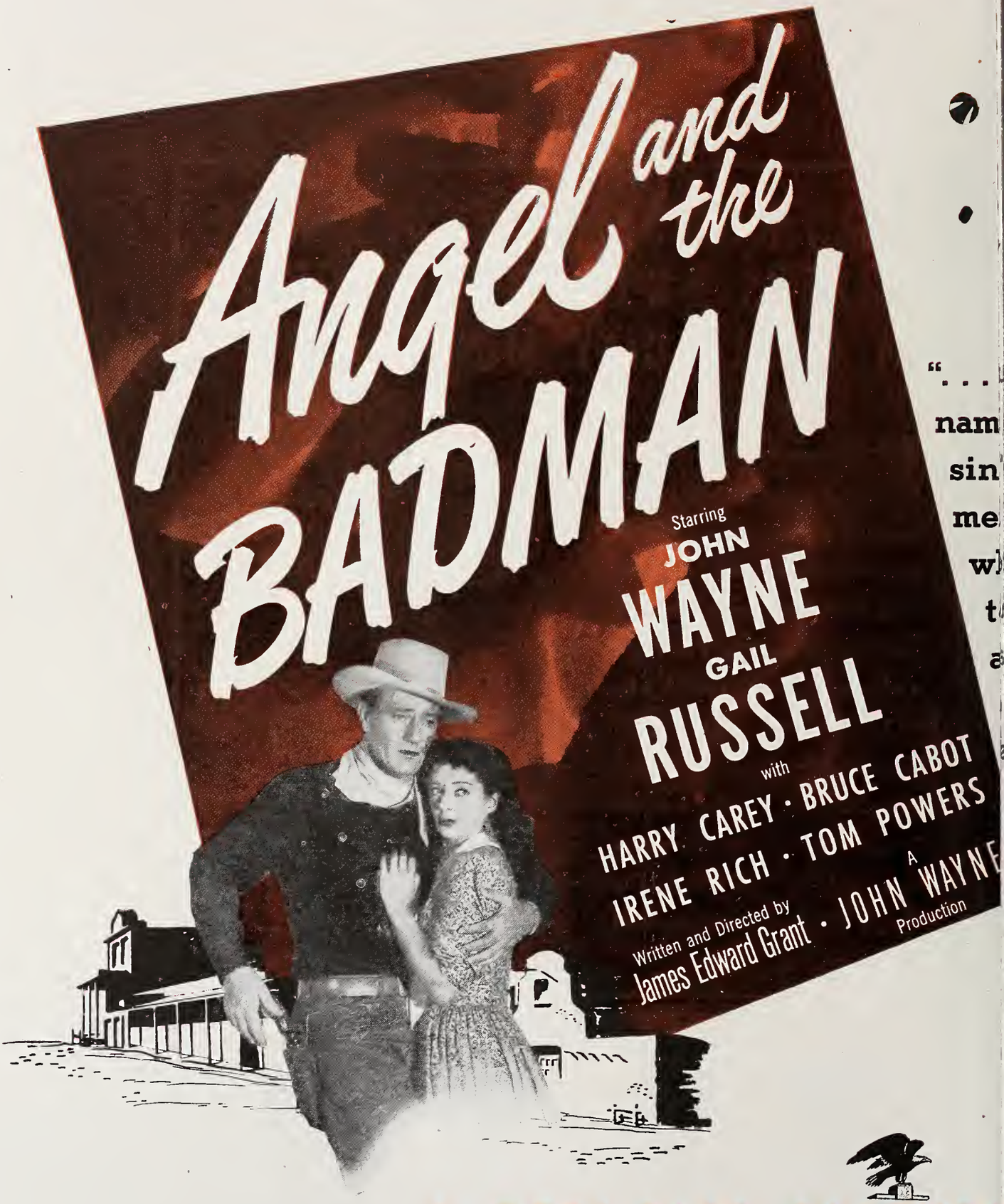
"THE SEA OF GRASS"

EXTRA! "The Sea of Grass" selected by Louella Parsons in Cosmopolitan Magazine as Movie of the Month! (*Left*) Advance New York newspaper ad prior to opening of "The Sea of Grass."

"...expert and po



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A REPUBLIC PICTURE

cent box office..."

says Film Daily

and more rave reviews

. super' Western of three-dimensional calibre amply stocked with
" M. P. DAILY . . ."'Angel' stand-out . . . Wayne does his best job
'Stagecoach'" VARIETY . . ."Interesting and exciting entertain-
' SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW . . ."Safe box office bet any-
re" DAILY VARIETY . . ."Something different and interesting
ne general public" INDEPENDENT . . ."A big-time, big-scale
raction" HOLLYWOOD REPORTER . . ."Tender and touching . . .
exciting fabric that includes gun-duels, horseback pursuits and
st fights" M. P. HERALD . . ."Should ride into the better grosses
. . satisfy the ladies" THE EXHIBITOR

THIRD BIG WEEK IN...
SAN FRANCISCO!

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"Song of Scheherazade" and "Nora Prentiss" divided the cream of the first-run grosses. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26:

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and WANTED FOR MURDER (20th-Fox)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,900)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio) — FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $15,700.

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,500)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $19,000)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and WANTED FOR MURDER (20th-Fox)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,700)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) (1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $18,000.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.00-$1.50) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $7,600)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,700)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and BLIND SPOT (Col.)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $23,700)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I) — IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $26,200)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $24,600)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: 10,000)

CHILD OF DIVORCE (RKO Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—MARCAL (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $8,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $6,100)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $15,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $5,800)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and WANTED FOR MURDER (20th-Fox)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and BLIND SPOT (Col.)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $23,100)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $25,500.

CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gros:s $30,000. (Average: $24,100)

CALIFORNIA (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,400)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $9,300)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,000)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $15,100)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $8,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $21,600)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $16,100)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,700)

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Review

"The Private Affairs of Bel Ami"

(*Loew-Lewin—United Artists*) *Hollywood, Feb. 25*

WRITER-DIRECTOR ALBERT LEWIN, who in 1945 made a special kind of screen history with his filming of Oscar Wilde's "The Portrait of Dorian Gray," endeavors here to deal in directly comparable manner with Guy de Maupassant's "The Private Affairs of Bel Ami," described on the screen as "the story of a scoundrel." As in the first picture, he manages here to tell on the screen a story of the kind parents do not give their children to read, and to convey by suggestion rather than by direct presentation numerous incidents of immortality. But in doing so he relies so steadily upon deliberation and dialogue that the telling takes on the monotone of a classroom demonstration of the art of narrative and the story itself becomes a secondary matter. As a demonstration, his picture has points of distinction, but as commercial entertainment it has limitations likely to count heavily against it.

The de Maupassant original is, of course, one of the "hot" books of its time, if not all time, consisting in the main of the tale of a scoundrel who, in the Paris of 1880, rose from poverty to wealth by the calculatingly conducted conquests of six women. In the picture the conquests are conducted almost entirely conversationally, although plainly enough indicated, and the hero stalks austerely through them pronouncing dialogue lines designed to be devastating disparagements of womankind. The women include a dance hall girl, a friend's wife, the wife's friend, the hero's employer's wife, and his employer's adolescent daughter, but it is in compensation for none of these betrayals that he meets death finally, but for having adopted a legally available title treasured by its lineally rightful owner. All the women, and several men, are damaged by the hero's declaredly unprincipled pursuit of purely monetary ambition, but Lewin's handling of the whole matter is so punctiliously bland that what goes on never seems real enough to generate concern.

The scoundrel is played by George Sanders, who did it better in "The Picture of Dorian Gray," and the woman given most prominence in his affairs is portrayed by Angela Lansbury, also of that picture, who gives the role independent status. Ann Dvorak, Frances Dee, John Carradine, Susan Douglas, Marie Wilson, Albert Basserman, Warren William, Hugo Haas, Katherine Emery, Richard Fraser, David Bond, George Good, Wyndham Standing and Lumsden Hare are others in the large cast, all of them turning in proficient performances but all restrained by perhaps the most time-consuming direction witnessed this season in important product.

As in the "Dorian Gray" job, Lewin here again carries his picture in black-and-white to the point where a painting is introduced in the story, and then switches abruptly to Technicolor to present the painting itself, in this case a treatment by Max Ernst of "The Temptation of Saint Anthony," the merits of which art critics may weigh and pronounce great or small, but a painting which audiences are likely to consider gruesome or offensive, depending on their tastes and views in such matters. Once may have been enough for that screen trick. David L. Loew produced the picture on a scale of utmost lavishness, and it measures up physically to the highest standards.

It is a picture for adults, strictly, and the more sophisticated of those.

Running time, 115 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, March 7.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

KANSAS CITY

Cold and mild weather alternated here. Business, although below the level of a year ago, was generally above average. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 25-27:

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,750)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M) and CIGARETTE GIRL (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000)

SIOUX CITY SUE (Rep.) and THE FIGHTING FRONTIERSMAN (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,000)

13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,000)

CHICAGO

"The Yearling" opened strong, leading the field in a week of good business generally. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26-27:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) 9th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c). On stage: Connee Boswell. Gross: $62,000. (Average: $62,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—GARRICK (1,000) (95c) 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $13,000)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (95c). Gross: $31,000. (Average: $18,000)

THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c). On stage: Dick Jurgens and orchestra. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $48,000)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.)—PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $23,000)

SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.) and THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c). Gross $10,000. (Average: $11,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB) — ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) 3rd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c). Gross: $44,000. (Average: $30,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c) 5th week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $27,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 10th week. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $28,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

The cold wave has cut grosses here. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 25-26:

THE MAN I LOVE (WB) and FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,700)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,800)

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $14,400)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days, on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,700)

F. J. Alford Shifts From MPA to MPEA

Frank J. Alford, assistant to Motion Picture Association treasurer George Borthwick, has been appointed chief accountant and assistant treasurer of the Motion Picture Export Association, succeeding William Laffan who has resigned, it was announced here yesterday by MPEA vice-president and general manager Irving Maas. Prior to joining MPA early in 1946, Alford served RKO for 12 years.

Gruenberg on Coast For Sales Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—Len S. Gruenberg, captain of the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive," is expected here for a sales rally Thursday, following a similar meeting in RKO Radio's Los Angeles exchange. He will then proceed to Portland and Seattle, which latter exchange includes Vancouver and Calgary. Walter E. Branson, western division sales manager, will be present at all of the meetings.

Dorothy Kilgallen Gets Cinema Scroll

Dorothy Kilgallen, columnist, was presented with an "honor scroll" last night by James A. Farley on behalf of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith at the Hotel Astor. Many people from the film and allied entertainment industries paid tribute to Miss Kilgallen, who was cited for promoting understanding among all races, colors and creeds.

Academy Ballots Mailed

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—The Academy has mailed 1,600 final ballots to members who will select 1946 award winners. Results will be announced at a presentation here on March 13.

Dewey Considers Ad Bill Protests

Assurance that Gov. Thomas Dewey will give full consideration to the industry's protests against New York State's Wilson-Condon film advertising censorship bill, now awaiting his signature or veto, has been given by Dewey's counsel, according to a spokesman for the New York film group which appeared at a hearing in Albany on Monday.

Milton Allvine, New York public relations director for the Motion Picture Association, reported here yesterday that a brief supplementary to one filed Monday was requested by the governor's attorneys who set next Thursday as a deadline for the filing.

Stanleigh Friedman, Warner vice-president, conferred with Dewey on the subject. Additionally, he and Sidney Schreiber, MPA counsel here, argued against the bill at the hearing. The measure would authorize the State Board of Regents to ban a picture on the grounds that its advertising copy is objectionable.

The industry holds that the bill would place an unconstitutional restraint on freedom of expression, that it represents an encroachment on the freedom of the press, and is discriminatory in that it covers only films and no other commodities.

Friedman, Schreiber and Allvine appeared along with Howard Dietz, director of advertising-publicity for M-G-M; Mort Blumenstock, Warner publicity-advertising chief, and Gordon White, director of the Eastern Advertising Code Administration.

Charles Breitel, counsel, and Lawrence Walsh, assistant counsel for Dewey, conducted the hearing.

Chancellor May Ask Dewey to Sign Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25.—William J. Wallin, chancellor of the New York Board of Regents, reportedly may come here tomorrow to urge Governor Dewey to sign the Condon-Wilson film advertising bill. The recommendation that the present law be amended to cover newspapers, magazines and other public media was made by the Regents in denying Commissioner Fielding's appeal to revoke the license of "The Outlaw." So far as is known, the Regents took no official stand while the bill was before the Legislature.

The New York Catholic Welfare Committee approved the measure without comment.

The bill has not yet been received by the Governor, who will have 10 days to act.

Citizens Group Protests

The film division of the Progressive Citizens of America, headed by Bosley Crowther, chairman, and Maurice Bergman, vice-chairman, has joined in the fight to kill the Condon-Wilson bill, sending a telegram to Gov. Dewey asserting that the measure would establish a "dangerous and unprecedented infringement not only directed against the motion picture industry but also threatening freedom of communications; press, radio and publishing as well."

Philatelists To Meet

Next meeting of the Cinema Stamp Collectors will be held today at Town Hall Club here The president is Nat Cohn.

United Productions' Officers Reelected

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—United Productions of America officers have been reelected following the annual stockholders' meeting. Stephen Bosustow was reelected president; Edward Gershman, John Hubley and Ade Woolery, vice-presidents; Leo Rosen, secretary, and Maxine Davis, assistant secretary.

Bosustow is executive producer, Edward Gershman is business manager, John Hubley, supervising director, and Ade Woolery, production manager.

UPA has completed an agreement with Pathescope Productions of New York whereby the latter will represent UPA in commercial sales in the New York area. Also announced is a new UPA Latin-American sales office in Havana, headed by Alfredo Alvarez and Fabian Garcia.

Peron Opposes Film Import Cut of 80%

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President Peron of Argentina is opposed to restricting the number of American films imported by that country, George Canty of the State Department disclosed today.

Peron announced that he is against a pending measure which would cut the importation of U. S. pictures by 80 per cent.

President Peron favors expansion of the Argentine industry, but believes it would not be wise to restrict present imports. Canty pointed out that Argentina depends upon the United States for its raw stock and equipment.

Mrs. Fred S. Meyer, 53

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25. — Funeral services were held at the Groman Mortuary, here, yesterday for Mrs. Ida Meyer, 53, wife of Fred S. Meyer, 20th Century-Fox's industrial relations director. Mrs. Meyer, who died Saturday at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, is survived also by her mother, Mrs. Sara Solk; a daughter, Mrs. Delphine Blumenthal; two brothers, and a son, Stanley. The latter and his wife, Doris, daughter of Universal president Nate Blumberg, interrupted their South American honeymoon to return here at the weekend for the services.

Felder's Mother Dies

Mrs. Annie Felder, mother of Joseph J. Felder of Favorite Films, here, died on Saturday after a short illness.

Iowa Censor Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

state department of censorship and licensing within the State Board of Education. The director of the department and his assistants would be appointed by the Board of Education upon recommendation of the state superintendent of public instruction.

The bill specifically provides that all motion pictures, except "current-event" films, and films shown by religious, charitable and other groups without profit, shall be examined and licensed by the new department. The department also would be given authority to inspect and charge a permit fee of $3 for each 1,000 feet of film on a picture and $2 on 1,000 feet for each copy of a picture.

Candy Not Under Miss. Store Tax

JACKSON, Feb. 25. — Theatres are not subject to Mississippi's state chain-store tax if they operate gum and candy counters in the lobby, the state supreme court held here today.

The court reversed a Hinds County circuit court decision in the case of Richards-Lightman Theatres Corp. vs. A. H. Stone, chairman of the State Tax Commission. The circuit court had denied the corporation's right to recover a chain-store tax of some $2,000, including penalties. However, the supreme court held that advantages of mass buying available to ordinary chain stores were not present in the case of theatre gum and candy counters.

These counters, the high court held, were accessible only to those who first purchased theatre tickets.

Curtis Says British Back Labor Officials

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 25. — Observing that the British are firmly behind the present Labor Government, E. P. Curtis, vice-president of Eastman-Kodak, today declared that "Britain is in trouble . . . but the Labor Government certainly didn't cause the country's present problems."

Curtis, who pointed out that the Eastman plant in Harrow, England, has reduced its output about one-half because of the fuel shortage, added that the Labor Government is a "good thing" for England. "If the Conservatives were in power, I think there would have been considerable more internal trouble," he said.

Paramount Host to France's Maud Lamy

Executives of Paramount's domestic and international departments will gather in the Hotel Astor tomorrow at a luncheon to be given by the company in honor of Maud Lamy, French actress, who is the guest of Paramount during her American visit. Later in the day she will meet the press at a reception in the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, and she will leave on Thursday for Hollywood to be feted by Paramount studio executives.

ATA Intervention

(*Continued from page* 1)

ruling against direct exhibitor intervention. This will be a joint appeal with the Southern California Theatre Owners Association.

ATA will contend that the exhibitor is not adequately represented before the court. Arnold's previous petion was accepted by the court as *amicus curaie.*

Robert L. Wright, Justice Department counsel, said today that he may not answer the ATA brief until the case is argued. Points to be made by ATA in its appeal of the decision against intervention were outlined in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 13.

The Confederacy of Southern Associations also will file an appeal this week on the same grounds, but advancing different arguments. CSA has been cooperating closely with ATA and the SCTOA in the litigation.

RCA Service Corp. Dinner on Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—RCA Service Corp. was host at a dinner here for RCA field engineers and the Western Theatrical Equipment Co., held at the Whitcomb Hotel. Bob Schultz, district sales manager for the RCA theatre equipment section, and "Stub" Schultz, district service manager, welcomed the guests. Policies and future plans for RCA sales and service were discussed.

Among those present were: Helen Taylor, John Corriveau, Jerry Gillet, Jean Willetts, Lou Gibbs, Karl Stephenson, Herb Sauter, Eddie Doyle, George Williams.

Ralph Clark

(*Continued from page* 1)

tion, more and more of my time has been required on the West Coast," said Thomas, adding: "In the four months I have just spent there, I have been able to get properties, personnel and material into a form that is beginning to take shape."

Clark entered the industry with the Turner and Dahnken Circuit in California. In 1917, he became general manager of T. and D. and represented the circuit's interests in First National. Leaving that post in 1921, Clark operated his own theatres in New York and New Jersey until 1927, when he joined Warner Brothers as general sales manager for the Far East, Australia and New Zealand. With the outbreak of war in 1942, he returned to this country as a member of the Warner domestic sales organization in Ben Kalmenson's sales cabinet. He joined International Pictures in 1945.

Federal to Lease 200

(*Continued from page* 1)

decree, through United Artists, he added.

The picture, which he said cost $2,500,000, was filmed completely in New York, and because it has a wide range of talent from opera and concert, plus a dash of Harry James, it cost 20 per cent less for production here than in Hollywood. Morros further explained that he found an "excellent crew of technicians" here without having had to transport them from the Coast.

He explained that an additional source of economies came in making the film in Carnegie Hall, which precluded the expense of constructing a replica.

Federal Films, Morros also revealed, has begun work on its next production, Victor Herbert's "Babes in Toyland," in Hollywood.

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'Razor' Promotions For 20 More Films

Point-of-sale advertising, as exemplified by the campaign applied to "The Razor's Edge," will be given to all 20 of 20th Century-Fox's pictures to be released this year, Charles Schlaifer, the companys' advertising-publicity director, announces. The "Razor's Edge" campaign, he said, saw the fulfillment of all the company had learned from premieres applied to previous pictures. The company, he added, has completed all plans for every picture on this year's schedule up to and including "Forever Amber" and "Captain From Castile."

"Finished advertising layouts," Schlaifer said, "are ready now on releases from March through October, including such productions as 'Alexander's Ragtime Band,' 'The Late George Apley,' 'Carnival in Costa Rica,' 'The Ghost and Mrs. Muir,' 'The Homestretch,' 'Moss Rose,' 'Miracle on 34th Street,' 'Bob, Son of Battle,' 'Kiss of Death,' 'Nightmare Alley,' 'I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now,' 'The Walls of Jericho,' 'Snake Pit' and 'Mother Wore Tights.'

"While our plans are complete now they are flexible enough so that we can add to them new ideas and new thoughts as we approach the release of each picture. With this long-range planning we have been able to step up the effectiveness of each campaign to a greater degree than ever before attained," he said.

To this end, the periodic trips into the field for conferences with exhibitors and advertising men, which Schlaifer started last year, will be continued this year, he reiterated. The first of these trips will be made early in March and will cover the Southern territory. On this two weeks' tour Schlaifer will be accompanied by several members of his advertising-publicity staff. This trip will be followed by other excursions into different territories and it is planned to continue this contact with the field at regular intervals in order to keep pace with changing conditions.

To further implement a closer contact with the field, the company's zone exploitation men also will be brought together from time to time to discuss greater concentration of 20th Century-Fox advertising in local areas and to make the point of sale advertising more effective, Schlaifer concluded.

Kay to Expand

(*Continued from page* 1)

brother will go to the Coast to attend the Variety Clubs' convention and while there will negotiate with several independent producers in connection with the planned expansion. They are devoting their New York visit to discussions with independent distributors looking toward the formation of the organization.

There are a number of independent Hollywood producers unaffiliated with any distribution organization, Katz pointed out, asserting that an expanded Kay organization will offer them permanent distribution facilities. Katz said also that with an "increased number of new theatres in the offing there will be need for increased production and distribution."

"Odd Man Out"

(*Continued from page* 1)

shrinks into protective, dark corners, endeavors to harbor his waning strength in a horse-driven cab, falls in the rain and mud and snow, makes his way to the haven of a saloon. He is picked up by an underworld character who is prepared to turn him over to police or friends, depending upon the greater reward, gets sorely needed aid from a medical student, stumbles out to meet Kathleen Ryan, who loves him and has been appealing to W. G. Fay, the parish priest, for information and assistance. In the final few minutes, the girl and Mason meet. Escape cut off, she fires two shots at the police advancing across a snow-covered square. In the returning fusilade, and as she had planned, both are killed.

Here are the essentials of taut and vigorous drama, compounded with exacting expertness in the screen play by R. C. Sheriff and R. L. Green, from a novel by another Green— F. J. But the bigger job was vested in Reed. To bring to life the realistic relentlessness of the hunt, to probe and to find the soul-searching required for utter conviction, to develop the stark mood, to unfold and then to catch the uncertainities and the cross-purposes of the good and the less-than-good characters parading the screen—these are among the contributions of Reed's undeniable talents as a director. His work is magnificent.

Mason is completely convincing and touching as the illegal resistance fighter whose inner conflict finds him unable to determine if the processes of parliamentary law ought not give way to violence. Miss Ryan, whose first film this is, immediately establishes her competency as an actress of depth and professional worth. Other players, drawn principally from the ranks of Dublin's famed Abbey Playhouse, are perfectly etched in their realism. Shading them for comparative values, the two who stand above the others are F. J. McCormick, as Shell, and Fay as Father Tom. Robert Newton, as a half-mad artist, and Fay Compton, in a minor role, are invaluable assets of a noted cast.

Commercially, "Odd Man Out" has Mason whose vogue in this country is on the upbeat. This film will enhance his popularity, but the measure of the attraction's ticket-selling potential perhaps is best drawn by a throwback to "The Informer", with which this bears many resemblances.

First reviewed from London in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of Jan. 30, Peter Burnup wrote: "This may well be rated in years to come among the screen's choicest masterpieces". His appraisal could prove correct.

Tinkering with an end product of such distinguished values, moreover, may be foolhardy yet the opinion of this impressed reviewer is that the film would be better served in less length. As it stands, on the other hand, "Odd Man Out" is a drama-on-film which will not be quickly forgotten.

Running time, 113 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

Joint Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

in its present form, with Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, reporting an appeal as "unlikely" and with president Spyros P. Skouras instructing the field sales force to abide by the spirit as well as the letter of the New York court's decision.

As late as yesterday morning, following a meeting of the attorneys Monday night, 20th-Fox apparently had still not given its approval to the appeal. At that time, Louis Phillips of the Paramount legal department said the document would be filed at three o'clock this afternoon and that it would "probably" be a joint action by all five theatre-owning defendants. Another meeting was held yesterday afternoon, following which Koegel authorized the 20th-Fox statement.

Paramount, the first theatre-owning defendant to announce its definite appeal intention, would be the hardest hit of the five companies by the court's order for divestiture of most of its theatre holdings in partnership with independent exhibitors. In early conferences among the counsel, however, there was sentiment for accepting this feature of the decree, a spokesman for one of the defendants said yesterday, adding that there was a similar inclination to make no appeal from the court's competitive-bidding provisions.

Enterprise Ads to D. & C.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Enterprise Films has given Donahue and Coe a long-term contract as advertising counsel.

16mm. Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

war reconstruction, has long been considered less urgent in the U. S., where 35mm. houses have penetrated into smaller communities than elsewhere in the world, but recent surveys by distribution-company executives show that much potential revenue exists in villages and outlying suburbs unable to support a substantial standard-gauge investment.

Interest in narrow-gauge expansion in this country began to develop prominently with the end of the war, when many servicemen, newly-trained in motion picture techniques, were expected to obtain used Government equipment and "set up shop" for themselves. Established exhibitors, so far, have run into little competition from this source, largely because of building difficulties, but many of them are understood to be ready to establish 16mm. houses as a protection for their investments as soon as opportunity permits.

Benefit 'Egg' Premiere

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—The Los Angeles Variety Club will sponsor a pre-release premiere of "The Egg and I" at the Carthay Circle on March 21st, with proceeds to go to the club's Heart Fund for the premature-birth clinic project.

Welles in Cancer Film

Orson Welles has agreed to make a five-minute short which will be used by the American Cancer Society in its 1947 appeal for funds.

MPEA Sees Early Deal With Bulgaria

Conclusion of a distribution deal between the Motion Picture Export Association and the Bulgarian Film Monopoly is anticipated at an early date, it was disclosed here yesterday by Irving Maas, MPEA vice-president and general manager.

Jean Birkhahn, MPEA representative, is now in Bulgaria working out preliminary details of a distribution agreement with officials of the monopoly. He will soon be joined in Sofia by Louis Kanturek, MPEA supervisor of Eastern Europe, who will assist in the negotiations.

Meanwhile, Maas revealed that all prints belonging to MPEA's member companies which were previously requisitioned by the Bulgarian government, have been withdrawn from circulation and placed under seal with the American mission in Sofia.

Para. Joins 'TB' Drive

Paramount became the first company in the industry to cooperate with New York health authorities in the city's intensified campaign against tuberculosis. The firm has accepted the offer of the Department of Health to have its employes in the Metropolitan area participate in the current mass chest x-ray survey being conducted throughout New York. The service will be free.

Paramount Pool

(*Continued from page* 1)

lowing his return from St. Augustine, Fla., where the company's theatre partners met last week to plan compliance with the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit. The court has ordered dissolution of all pools by July 1.

Goldenson said the Florida discussions, for the most part, were limited to an interpretation of the decree by Austin C. Keough, general counsel, and Louis Phillips and Walter Gross of the company's legal department. Although the partners discussed the requirements of the partial-divestiture clause, plans for abiding by it, if it is approved by the Supreme Court, were deferred until a later meeting, a date for which has not yet been set, Goldenson declared.

The divestiture clause would require Paramount to absorb up to 95 per cent of the interests in theatres now owned in partnership, or to sell all but five per cent of such interests. Splitting up of the circuits, with Paramount taking half the houses, has been suggested as one possible solution of the problem.

Barney Balaban, president of the company, who attended the meeting, arrived here from Florida yesterday.

Red Cross Short

(*Continued from page* 1)

RKO-Radio, United Artists, Universal and Warner Brothers.

Peter G. Levathes, assistant to Tom Connors, chairman of the national film distributors committee, reports that the film will be pre-released in major first-runs tomorrow. Some 3,000 prints have been made for the 31 exchanges handling the film in order to insure complete national showing during March.

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 40 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1947 TEN CENTS

PARA. ALONE HITS BIDS AS 5 APPEAL

M. P. Forum's N. Y. Meeting Is Called Off

Plan Is Dropped Until Anti-Trust Suit Ends

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—Fred Wehrenberg, sponsor of the plan for a motion picture exhibitor forum to adjust internal trade problems, announced here today that the organizing meeting scheduled for March 10-11 at the Hotel Astor, New York, has been called off.

Wehrenberg explained that incomplete exhibitor representation for the scheduled meeting made it impractical to proceed further with the forum plans at this time. He insisted that another attempt to organize the forum will be made after the U. S. Supreme Court has acted on the pending appeals in the U. S. industry anti-trust suit, or whenever the suit ultimately is disposed of by the courts.

From present indications that could

(*Continued on page 7*)

Para. Price Drop Scores with Public

Morning attendance at the Paramount Theatre on Broadway yesterday nearly doubled the previous high for the year as its thoroughly publicized morning admission price reduction went into effect, Robert Weitman, managing director, reported. Revenue also was up, he said, exceeding by $1,500 the opening day morning income of the average of the three previous attractions at the house.

The price was lowered to 55 cents

(*Continued on page 7*)

Education Dept. May Favor Ad Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The State Education Department was expected to file with Governor Dewey a memorandum favoring the Condon-Wilson obscene advertising bill, as the State Board of Regents today began a three-day meeting to discuss

(*Continued on page 7*)

Film Laboratories In London Seen Closing in 3 Weeks

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 26.—All sections of the industry here agree that the British laboratory operational outlook is extremely bleak with no possibility in sight for catching up on the time-lag brought about by the national coal crisis. According to the Kinematograph Renters Society, film printing is assured for the next three weeks, under present coal crisis conditions, but it is doubtful thereafter.

KRS president Reginald Baker has paid tribute to the work done by those laboratories and laboratory workers who have taken the load from closed plants. J. Arthur Rank's Denham Laboratory, he said, "worked miracles in keeping the laboratory going 64 hours a week without a break." The Humphries Laboratory and others are still closed, as is Eastman's Kodak,

(*Continued on page 5*)

Bidding Contrary To Trust Law: ATA

In a joint appeal filed with the New York Federal Court here yesterday, the American Theatres Association and the Southern California Theatre Owners Association charge that the court has given judicial sanction to a method of doing business by competitive bidding which is contrary to the Sherman anti-trust law. Both groups appealed from the New York court's order denying their

(*Continued on page 7*)

NCCJ Lauds Industry's Aid

Voicing appreciation for the "excellent accomplishments" of the motion picture industry in the fund and membership drive conducted in conjunction with the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Dr. Everett Clinchy, NCCJ president, yesterday declared that while radio, the press, magazines and advertising agencies achieved "magnificent" results, "nothing compares with what was done by the film industry." He spoke at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor for the amusements division of the NCCJ following committee reports on the interim results of the drive which was climaxed by "American Brotherhood

(*Continued on page 7*)

Ind. House Passes Anti-ASCAP Bill

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—The Indiana House of Representatives passed the so-called Anti-ASCAP Bill today by a vote of 79 to 1. The measure included amendments which would give theatre-owners full protection as the result of unlicensed performances. The House version, which would make producers or distributors liable for damages, now returns to the Senate, which approved the original measure, 38 to 0.

All Want Arbitration; Score Price-Fixing Ban, Theatre Restrictions

By TOM LOY

Four of the five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit—Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners—yesterday accepted the system of single sales and competitive bidding outlined by the New York Federal District Court when they filed a joint appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from most other features of the local tribunal's decree.

Paramount, joining in a single jurisdictional statement, filed a separate assignment of errors, which appealed from the selling provisions also.

The five defendants, in a summary of "substantial questions," center their attack on four main contentions:

That the industry arbitration system, terminated by the New York court, should have been continued.

That the injunction against price

(*Continued on page 8*)

Companies Unlikely To Ask for Stay

The five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit are unlikely to ask the U. S. Supreme Court for a stay of the effective date of any of the provisions of the New York Court's decree, John F. Caskey, counsel for 20th Century-Fox, indicated here yesterday as these defendants filed a joint appeal.

Stressing that a final decision with regard to stay action has not yet been

(*Continued on page 5*)

"Carnegie Hall"

[*Federal Films-United Artists*] — **Fine Music, Big Show**

THE tariff to hear them runs high when they sing at Carnegie Hall or at the Metropolitan. But, here wrapped in a single film, are seven concert artistes and a great, American symphonic orchestra.

The singers—all soloists of high reputation in their field—are Lily Pons, Rise Stevens, Ezio Pinza and Jan Peerce. The musicians—equally as renowned—are Jascha Heifetz, violinist; Artur Rubinstein, pianist; and Gregor Piatigorsky, cellist. The orchestra is the famed New York Philharmonic, broadcasting to millions in the United States and Canada every Sunday afternoon, led by Bruno Walter, Fritz Reiner, Artur Rodzinski and Leopold Stokowski.

They, and their magnificent solos and their music superbly recorded, are woven into a story which tells the ambitions of a mother for her musical son and how he finds his place, not among the classicists of her hope, but among the rising sons of the modern American musical scene. The whole package, slanted sharply toward the bobby sockers via Vaughn Monroe and Harry James, results in a long, but big-scale, show with particularized appeal to the many lovers of good music and a decided

(*Continued on page 8*)

9 Reviews Today

In addition to "Carnegie Hall," the following films are reviewed inside: "The Macomber Affair," "I Cover Big Town," page 4; "Danger Street," "Blondie's Holiday," "The Lone Hand Texan," "The Devil Thumbs a Ride," page 6; and "Valley of Fear," "Before Him All Rome Trembled," page 8.

Key city grosses are given on page 4.

Personal Mention

DAVID O. SELZNICK is due here from the Coast next week.

•

RUDY BERGER, Southern M-G-M sales manager, accompanied by his home office assistant, LEONARD HIRSCH, will leave Dallas today for Oklahoma City fromg where, on Saturday, they will leave for Kansas City.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount's Western sales manager, left Hollywood yesterday for Omaha, Des Moines, Kansas City and St. Louis en route here for conferences with CHARLES M. REAGAN, vice-president.

•

S. BARRET McCORMICK, RKO Radio director of advertising-publicity, has extended his Hollywood visit for another week, and plans now to return here March 10.

•

VICTORIA TSUKALAS, secretary to JOEL SWENSEN, Warner Bros. home office researcher, will be married in June to WILLIAM PAVLOU, New York restaurateur.

•

HARRY GOLDBERG, Warner Theatres' director of advertising-publicity, will leave New York by plane today for the Coast.

•

J. ARTHUR RANK, British industry leader, is expected to arrive here from London on May 7 for a two-months' New York-and-Hollywood visit.

•

MOE SILVER, Warner Theatres Pittsburgh zone manager, will terminate his New York visit at the weekend.

•

ROBERT WEITMAN, managing director of the Paramount Theatre here, will leave for the Coast early next week.

RCA Showroom To Open Here in April

A public showroom featuring a television and radio studio is being built by RCA in Rockefeller Center for opening probably in April. The cost is put at $1,000,000. The showroom will be a two-story structure, part of the Eastern Air Lines Building.

Warner Men Open 2-Day Meet Today

Warner district managers and home office sales executives convene at the home office this morning for the first session of a two-day conference.

Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager will preside.

Gift to Philippines

Monogram International Corp. has donated 30,000 feet of 35mm. sound negative to Ateneo College, Philippine Islands boys' school. The film was flown to Manila by Pan-American free of charge for use in a benefit picture, "The End of the Road."

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

NINETY-EIGHT per cent of those who replied to 500 cards handed them when the Paramount went to a 55 cent morning-to-one P.M. price, including tax, yesterday replied they came on account of the price, not on account of the show. So Bob Weitman, managing director of the big Times Square theatre, reported. And there is this to capture the attention of that current school which believes the time has arrived to start shaving admission scales now that the war is over:

When "Suddenly It's Spring" started rolling for the first time at nine A.M., there were 1,900 patrons in the house, or more than the Paramount has seen around in a long, long time. By noon, about 7,000 admissions had been clocked. By one P.M., when the price went to 90 cents, as against its former 95, it was about 8,400. This meant smart dispersal of those unable to get seats in the inside lobby, upper promenade, outer lobby, upper balcony and whatever other space was available. The theatre seats 3,664.

The letter-carrier and the night worker whose shift breaks at eight o'clock were on hand. So, also, was the salesman who once flocked to the theatre when the price was lower and, evidently, closer to his liking and means. The boys wearing the lumber jackets were around yesterday morning. The fact is a flock of people who have been absent for about nine months seem to have made a reappearance.

It was price that did it.

■ ■

Decision to play "The Razor's Edge" along with "Dangerous Money," a Charlie Chan, over its Metropolitan circuit — it raised some eyebrows—turns out to be another manifestation of RKO's conviction that Greater New York is a deeply-rooted double-feature town. Circuit executives point to the record, stoutly maintaining their theatres do best on that kind of policy. They stand by it as often as possible, moreover, although there have been occasional exceptions. One was "Night and Day." Another was "Saratoga Trunk." Both ran single bill because Warner sold these attractions that way nationally.

This suggests 20th-Fox did not insist "The Razor's Edge" stand entirely on its own. But the questions worth throwing on the table become several. One is whether or not RKO made friends of those who may not patronize its houses regularly but who may have been drawn by this film because of its heavy advertising campaign and its out-of-the-ordinary appeal. Another is whether "The Razor's Edge" did not rate the handling accorded "Night and Day" and "Saratoga Trunk." A third, which could run to considerable length and much argument, concerns the attitude of those who control important playing time toward attractions seeking to be different and backed up by sufficient conviction to make this possible.

■ ■

As he stepped into his new post as distribution vice-president of Enterprise, George J. Schaefer held a Hollywood press interview. At it, he is quoted as having declared exhibitors will have to start paying rentals in accordance with their ability to pay rather than their ability to trade if existing production standards are to be maintained.

It has been our impression—and that of practically everyone else, we venture—that exhibitors paid rentals in accordance with the ability of the film to produce revenue.

■ ■

Buried in a Sunday article written for the New York *Herald-Tribune,* Thornton Delehanty reports this, out of conversation with Dore Schary, now executive vice-president in charge of RKO Radio production:

"Although RKO in the recent past has made distribution deals with nearly a dozen independent producers, Schary said this was to be no longer a studio trend. On the contrary, the policy now is to build up a growing list of contract actors and directors and to play along less with the outside, or freelance, groups."

Very important, even if buried. And, of course, if true.

■ ■

Sidney Skolsky, always alert to Hollywood's changing trends, reports it is now corny to call something corny. "They don't use it any more. The latest is that, if a thing is corny, it's 'chintzy'."

Not from where we sit.

QP Awards Judged Here on Monday

More than 100 industry executives on the "Quigley Awards Committee" will appraise the work of 22 finalists competing for the annual Quigley Showmanship titles in the Hotel Astor, New York, on Monday.

The two selected as the outstanding showmen for 1946 will receive sentar and bronze plaques as evidence of the skill displayed throughout the year in promoting the motion picture theatre and its screen attractions.

Following appraisal of the campaigns, the judges will be the guests of Martin Quigley. Principal speaker at the luncheon will be Sol A. Schwartz, vice-president in charge of theatres for RKO Service Corp. Many out-of-town theatre executives and exhibitors will attend.

The 22 candidates, comprising top winners in the quarterly competitions during 1946, represent the largest number of individual entries ever presented to the judges' committee. In addition to theatremen from the United States and Canada, the judges will view evidences of showmanship submitted by theatremen in South America, England, New Zealand, Belgium and Cuba.

McManus Gets Coast Advertising Post

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26.—John McManus has been appointed head of advertising and publicity for Warner Brothers Theatres on the West Coast. The post had been temporarily filled since the recent resignation of Mort Goodman. Doug George will handle exploitation under McManus.

Johnston Address Today

Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, will speak on "American Foreign Economic Policy," before the second international affairs committee forum to be conducted by the Women's National Republican Club at its headquarters here today. Mrs. Robert Low Bacon is committee chairman.

Loew Election Today

The entire Loew's Inc., board of directors will be up for reelection at the company's annual stockholders meeting at the home office here today.

Nat'l Distributors Will Meet March 7-8

Chicago, Feb. 26.—The new National Film Distributors, composed of members of the National Film Carriers, operating in 21 cities, will meet here on March 7-8 at the Hotel Sherman to establish organizational procedure in connection with its furnishing physical distribution to the Selznick Releasing Organization.

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IF YOU WERE NORA PRENTISS WOULD YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT?

It's Open!

IT'S TOPPING 'MILDRED PIERCE' AND IT'S TOPPING 'NIGHT AND DAY'! WARNERS HAVE A TERRIFIC ATTRACTION AND A TERRIFIC CAMPAIGN BEHIND IT.

IN SHERIDAN Sensational as NORA PRENTISS

CO-STARRING KENT SMITH · BRUCE BENNETT · ROBERT ALDA

ROSE MARY DECAMP

SCREEN PLAY BY N. RICHARD NASH • FROM A STORY BY PAUL WEBSTER & JACK SOBELL • MUSIC BY FRANZ WAXMAN

DIRECTED BY VINCENT SHERMAN PRODUCED BY WILLIAM JACOBS

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

PHILADELPHIA

Business was hit badly by Thursday's storm but picked up over the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 25-27:

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) — ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $14,000)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB) — ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,300. (Average: $7,250)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $22,800)
THE CHASE (UA)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Gene Krupa's band. Gross: $25,000. (Average for 7 days: $22,800)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) — FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $28,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) — GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross $26,000. (Average: $26,000)
JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.) — KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $7,800)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox) — KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week, 2nd run. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,500)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $28,300)
HENRY V (UA) — PIX (500) ($1.30-$1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) —STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $24,900)
LADIES' MAN (Para.)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,200)

PITTSBURGH

"The Jolson Story" continues to roll up sensational grosses at the J. P. Harris despite an overall drop in business throughout town because of heavy snows. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 27:

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON (20th-Fox) — FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,700)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $11,000)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio) —PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $25,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 4th week on moveover from Warner. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,500)
WILD WEST (PRC) and BLACK BEAUTY (20th-Fox)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $3,200)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $25,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) — WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,000)

BUFFALO

Business has been generally good despite a weekend snow storm. "Sister Kenny" is doubling the house average at the Twentieth Century Theatre, and "California" also is rolling up an impressive gross at the Great Lakes. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 1:

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $19,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) — GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and BRINGING UP FATHER (Mono.)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $10,000)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.) — LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE SHOW-OFF (M-G-M) and STRANGE JOURNEY (20th-Fox)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on a moveover. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)
SISTER KENNY (RKO Radio) and CRIMINAL COURT (RKO Radio) — TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $16,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

Top honors here go to the Golden Gate Theatre, where a Danny Kaye stage show is coupled with "The Lone Wolf in Mexico." Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 28:

TEMPTATION (U-I) and SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.) — ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $14,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) and DANGEROUS MONEY (Mono.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 5 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average for 7 days: $32,000)
THE LONE WOLF IN MEXICO (Col.)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) With Danny Kaye on stage. 7 days. Gross: $55,000. (Average: $32,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U-I) and THE DEVIL'S MASK (Col.)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and CODE OF THE WEST (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,735) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $23,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and CODE OF THE WEST (RKO Radio)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Grss: $6,500. (Average: $6,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and CALENDAR GIRL (Rep.)—STATE (2,035) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $13,000)
THE WICKED LADY (U-I) and THE DEVIL'S MASK (Col.) — TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $14,000)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $14,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) —WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $27,000)

DENVER

"Open City" set a record at the Rialto, and business for other films held up fairly well despite snow and cold weather. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26:

ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days after week each at the Denver, Webber. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) andl BIG TOWN (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, for "Marriage:" Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M) and STRANGE VOYAGE (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,500)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and THE FABULOUS SUZANNE (Rep.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)
OPEN CITY (Mayer-Burstyn)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $3,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—WEBBER (750) (34c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

"California" paced the week's business, with "The Jolson Story" running a good second. Estimated recipts for the week ending Feb. 27:

BOOM TOWN (M-G-M reissue)—CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,500)
FLYING DEUCES (RKO Radio reissue)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,400)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $6,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,500)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $18,000)
TEMPTATION (U-I)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $8,000)
LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,500)

Benjamin Webster, 82

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26. — Benjamin Webster, 82, veteran actor on the English-speaking stage, died here today, following an operation on Feb. 14. He was the husband of Dame May Whitty, and the father of Margaret Webster, actress, director and producer.

Reviews

"The Macomber Affair"

(Bogeaus-United Artists)

"THE Macomber Affair" doubtless will prove the point that good pictures will make good. The elaboration of the Ernest Hemingway short story of husband, wife and a third person on a hunting expedition in Africa, so realistically enacted by Gregory Peck, Joan Bennett and Robert Preston, is one which sustains dramatic compulsion all the way.

Miss Bennett and Preston are the Macombers of the story, he wealthy but lacking in character and she his beautiful wife, on the verge of separating. They seek to find the happiness they once knew with each other, in Africa. Peck is their guide on the expedition. Upon this foundation the screenplay, by Casey Robinson and Seymour Bennett, is a noteworthy job of plot construction, directed adeptly by Zoltan Korda who exercises just the right amount of restraint in just the right places.

Peck, very masculine, is of course found attractive by Miss Bennett, who in one instance steals from her tent to his. Preston loses out entirely when he proves himself to be a coward in an exciting chase after a lion, who, after being wounded, turns and charges. In a similar sequence a buffalo attacks the group but is downed by a shower of bullets. In the excitement here Miss Bennett fires from the background and Preston falls dead. Upon returning to town from the jungle she confesses it was no accident.

Dialogue is relied upon as a substitute for action in many instances, but it is intelligent, meaningful dialogue, always engaging. Peck's performance seems effortless. Both Miss Bennett and Preston, too, discharge their duties with a maximum of effectiveness. Carl Harbord, Jean Gillie and Earl Smith have small parts in the Benedict Bogeaus presentation. He and Robinson produced.

Running time, 90 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, March 21.

GENE ARNEEL

"I Cover Big Town"

(Pine-Thomas—Paramount)

Hollywood Feb. 26

THE second in the "Big Town" series, lately launched by producers William Pine and William Thomas, tops the standard set by the first of these melodramas, which are based on the radio program of the same name. Leading members of the cast of the first—Philip Reed, Hillary Brooke and Robert Lowery—are present again in the roles of a newspaper editor, a girl reporter, and the police reporter of a rival paper, respectively.

Whitman Chambers' original screenplay hinges on the discovery by "Lorelei," the beautiful blonde reporter, of a body in a trunk in the garage of a prominent contractor. Subsequent investigation discloses that the murdered man was the first husband of the contractor's wife; that the firm's books are in a bad way; and that the contractor and his wife had made plane reservations for an extended tour of South America. The evidence against the contractor is damning, but, after a good deal of gunplay and some sharp deduction, Reed, in the role of the editor of the *Big Town Illustrated Press,* proves conclusively that the contractor is the innocent victim of his partner's plotting. All is well that ends well, and the picture's finale sees justice triumphant, and "Steve" and "Lorelei" ready for fresh adventures. William Thomas directed.

Running time, 63 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

Played 8 Weeks at the Verdi Theatre—A First Run New York House

Sensational new Tenor of the Metropolitan Opera
FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI
in the gay musical film
"I LIVE AS I PLEASE"
(VOGLIO VIVERE COSI') · Complete English Titles

★★★ "Italian pictures are looking up. Fine singing needs no translation. This is a highly enjoyable picture!" —N. Y. Post —NEWS

distributed by SUPERFILM DIST. CORP.

FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI, after his Metropolitan Engagement, is scheduled to sing in Baltimore on April 7 and Washington on April 23 and 24.

The New York Newspapers and Music Critics have acclaimed him the second Caruso of our time.

SUPERFILM DIST. CORP., 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Booklet Describes M. P. Foundation

A 32-page booklet describing the Motion Picture Foundation is in process of being printed for distribution to all theatres, circuit heads, equipment dealers, film exchanges, home offices and executives of allied industries, Foundation headquarters here announced yesterday. About 22,000 copies will be sent out in time to be received the last week in March.

The booklet was prepared following the recommendation of the temporary public relations committee which submitted a report to the Foundation's steering committee after the organizational meeting held in New Orleans on Dec. 3-4.

Entitled "Digest of Information," the booklet will contain complete details on the Foundation so that those who will take part in the organization of area committees will possess a full knowledge of the Foundation and its aims, it is said.

Organizational meetings in various areas are scheduled to take place in April. The names of area chairmen who will have charge of organizing committees in the field for the Foundation will be announced in a few days.

4,000 Out as Strike Enters 6th Month

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Four thousand studio workers are still on strike, according to a checkup made today at the end of the fifth month of the Conference of Studio Unions' strike. This is about 14 per cent of normal studio personnel.

The strike hit its peak on Oct. 14th, when 1,500 laboratory workers flouted their international officers to observe picket lines. About 1,000 of these have returned to work.

Settlement was regarded as remote as ever as the strike entered its sixth month.

Chicago Strike Ends

CHICAGO, Feb.26.—Balaban & Katz's Admiral Theatre has reopened after staying closed for six weeks because of a union controversy with the projectionists. The theatre will remain open during the negotiation period. The controversy began when B. & K. wanted to discontinue matinees. The union says that the projectionists should be absorbed elsewhere in the circuit.

SIMPP Will Move

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—The Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers will move its headquarters on April 1 from the Pantages Theatre Building, here, to North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, in order to accomodate its expanding activities and personnel, Donald M. Nelson, president, announced today.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

Lober and Silverstein Get New Loew Posts

Louis Lober and Maurice Silverstein have been named associate regional directors of Loew's International Corp. by Morton A. Spring, vice-president in charge of sales and theatre operations abroad.

Lober, who was assistant to David Lewis, regional director for Europe, North Africa, Egypt and the Middle East, becomes Loew regional director for that same region. Silverstein is likewise promoted from assistant to Eddie F. O'Connor, regional director for the Far East, to associate director. Lober is scheduled to leave New York on March 17 for a tour of M-G-M offices in his region.

Seidelman to Europe For U-I Convention

Joseph A. Seidelman, president of Universal-International, will leave New York for Europe on March 7th to prepare for U-I's first convention since the war, which will be held in Paris toward the end of March.

Others who will attend the convention from here are Al Daff, assistant to Seidelman, Fortunat Baronat, publicity department chief, and possibly Harry Sugarman, head of the 16mm. department.

Stay Bid Unlikely

(*Continued from page* 1)

reached, Caskey pointed out that, although the companies have appealed from the price-fixing ban, with special emphasis on roadshowing, none of them have any films which they desire to roadshow at present, and minimum price clauses already have been eliminated from present contracts.

Partial divorcement, under the local court's ruling, already has been stayed two years, Caskey further pointed out, adding that a request for a stay of abolition of the industry arbitration system does not seem practical. This and most other provisions of the decree are scheduled to become effective April 1.

Competitive bidding, effective July 1, has not been appealed by Loew's, RKO, 20th-Fox or Warners, which precludes their asking for a stay of that provision, Caskey explained. Paramount, although appealing on bidding, has already started licensing some of its films through that method.

Caskey said the five companies' praecipe, to be filed within a few days, will ask that the full record of the case be forwarded to the Supreme Court, including the Government's Aug., 1944 motion for modification of the consent decree. This document was excluded from the praecipe filed by the Department of Justice.

The law, Caskey explained, gives the New York court 40 days in which to pass the appeals along to Washington. Thereafter, the Supreme Court is likely to rule that "probable jurisdiction is noted," he said, adding, however, that a hearing on the merits of the case could be called.

First step after the case is accepted will be for the defendants and the Department to meet and agree on what parts of the record are to be printed, with numerous exhibits likely to be eliminated, Caskey said.

He concluded that a hearing of the appeals before next fall is unlikely and declared they are all virtually certain to be heard at the same time.

Plan Stoppage of Newsreels in UK

London, Feb. 26.—Distributors of newsreels in the United Kingdom, are considering abandoning the reels, production of which has already been sharply curtailed as a result of laboratory shut-downs brought about by the coal crisis.

At present, under crisis-inspired restrictions, the newsreels consume 1,500,000 feet of film per week. This is the amount of footage the British Board of Trade has recommended be saved each week for the rest of the year if the entire industry is not to be imperiled by a complete lack of rawstock before the year's end.

Laboratories

(*Continued from page* 1)

which normally handles 80 per cent of the nation's rawstock output. Eastman foresees some possibility of obtaining a special solid fuel allocation, by which means the company can possibly achieve 50 per cent of normal production.

A deputation of an all-industry committee and British Board of Trade officials met here today for a general exchange of views designed to lead to an endeavor to obtain amelioration for the industry from the government. The conclave resulted in the officials' offer of a considerable reduction in governmental print demands, and distributors and exhibitors agreeing with the BOT that 1,500,000 feet of rawstock must be conserved weekly for the rest of the year. The industry representatives said special releasing arrangements would have to be made to effect the saving, but in view of the threatened darkening of laboratories there is little hope of starting the emergency arrangements.

BOT officials estimate that with pooled rawstock resources about 11,500,000 feet will be available weekly. This estimate is dependent on how long the present fuel emergency lasts in the London area, and is regarded in trade circles as unduly optimistic.

Ecclesine to CBS

Joseph A. Ecclesine has left *Time* magazine to join Columbia Broadcasting's sales promotion department.

Hollanders to Coast For Month's Vacation

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—William K. Hollander, director of publicity, advertising and exploitation for Balaban & Katz, and Mrs. Hollander, will leave for a month's vacation on the West Coast tomorrow. They will spend two weeks at the La Quinta Hotel, which is owned in part by B. and K. head John Balaban, and two weeks at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. On March 19, Hollander will be feted at a luncheon given by B. and K. "alumni" who have worked in his department during the past 25 years. William Pine, Paramount producer, is chairman in charge of arrangements for the luncheon.

Coast Newsmen Cite Goldwyn and Capra

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26. — Samuel Goldwyn's production of "The Best Years of Our Lives" and Frank Capra for his direction of "It's a Wonderful Life" were presented tonight with citations by the Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Asociation at the organization's annual ceremonies at the Hollywood Roosevelt.

Awards for 1946 also were given to Gregory Peck for his performance in "The Yearling," Rosalind Russell for "Sister Kenny" and Anne Baxter and Clifton Webb for supporting performances in "The Razor's Edge."

Independent Artists Signs Allen Rivkin

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Allen Rivkin has been signed to a producer-writer contract by Independent Artists, Inc., and will report immediately to this company's offices at the RKO Radio studio.

Edward Dmytryk has been signed to a new long-term contract as an RKO Radio producer-director. His next assignment is the direction, mostly in Switzerland, of "The White Tower," by James Ramsey Ullman.

Ban 'Grapes' in Oslo

Exhibition of Darryl F. Zanuck's "Grapes of Wrath" has been barred by authorities in Oslo, Norway, because American distributors insisted that audiences were to be informed that conditions portrayed in the film are not normal in the U. S., according to press dispatches reaching here from Oslo. The distributors also sought to have inserted at the film's end an explanation that the "less flattering" aspects of American life depicted have since been improved.

"BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY"
First of a series, based on the famous best selling BOMBA BOOKS, is the initial feature of a program to be produced by HARRY STERN PRODUCTIONS.
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
IN PREPARATION
"IMPERIAL VALLEY"
"RHYTHM of the REDWOODS"
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
HARRY STERN PRODUCTIONS
SUITE 205 - 118 SO. BEVERLY DR., BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.
The BOMBA BOOKS, published by Cupples and Leon Publishing Co., New York, have registered sales of well over 1,000,000 copies since first date of publication; sales for 1946 over 75,000.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 26

MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN, who has been absent from the screen for nearly five years, will resume her career in the lead in "The Big Clock." Her husband, John Farrow, will direct the film for Paramount, and Ray Milland and Charles Laughton have been assigned stellar roles. . . . Jan Grippo, who produces the "Bowery Boys" series for Monogram, has had his contract extended. The new pact calls for eight pictures, to be made within a two-year period.

•

Frederick Brisson, head of Independent Artists, producing company which releases through RKO Radio, has purchased "Lucky Penny," original by Jack Rubin and Mindret Lord. . . . Carole Landis has been signed by Eagle-Lion for a lead in "Out of the Blue." She will co-star with Virginia Mayo and Turhan Bey. . . . Current unrest in China has prompted Sam Bischoff to cancel plans to send a crew to Shanghai to shoot backgrounds for his forthcoming production," Intrigue," which will star George Raft.

•

Producers Jesse L. Lasky and Walter MacEwen are conducting a search through Eastern colleges—Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Smith and Wellesley among them—for a girl to play opposite Fred MacMurray in "The Miracle of the Bells" . . . William Cameron Menzies will direct "Purgatory Street," next Interwood production for Universal-International . . . Maurice Conn has engaged Leslie Goodwins to direct "Dark Bullet," first Fortune Film which Conn will produce for Screen Guild release.

•

Irving Reis has been signed by U-I to a long-term directorial contract. . . . "The Golden Stallion," recently purchased by Republic, will serve as a starring vehicle for Roy Rogers. It is to be filmed in Trucolor. . . . Leon Shamroy, three times a winner of the Academy award for cinematography, has been signed to a new long-term contract by 20th Century-Fox, as a result of his work on "Forever Amber," which studio executives believe will put him in line for a fourth award.

•

David O. Selznick has purchased the rights to "Rupert of Hentzau," which was first produced a quarter-of-a-century ago by Selznick's brother, Myron. French star Louis Jourdan is set for the title role, and Italian actress Valli will play "Queen Flavia" . . . Betty Hutton has been assigned the title role in "Dream Girl," Paramount's version of Elmer Rice's Broadway play.

•

Sol Siegel, recently signed to a producer pact at 20th Century-Fox, has been assigned to make "Lydia Bailey," from a novel by Kenneth Roberts. Much of the story is laid in Haiti, and will be filmed on the spot. . . . Zoltan Korda has been engaged by U-I to direct "The Mortal Coil," screen version of Aldous Huxley's famed story, "The Giaconda Smile."

Reviews

"Danger Street"

(*Pine-Thomas-Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 26

JANE WITHERS and Robert Lowery are the top names in a comedy melodrama of the kind which William Pine and William Thomas have produced so often and so successfully. That it is not as good as their best is traceable in part to the screenplay, by Maxwell Shane, Winston Miller and Kae Salkow. The plot is too contrived to be convincing, and the behavior of the leading characters such as to be irritating to an adult audience.

Lowery is cast as the editor of a picture magazine; Miss Withers is the staff photographer. The two hire out as servants to a publicity-shy heiress in order to get photographs of her and her friends. When one of the pictures turns out to be evidence that the heiress' financé is somewhat less than single-minded romantically, murder ensues. Miss Withers and Lowery thereafter attempt to discover the identity of the killer. Their bungling efforts nearly knot a noose around Lowery's neck, but another photograph saves the day—and Lowery's neck—after 66 minutes of somewhat uninspired sleuthing. Lew Landers directed.

Running time, 66 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

T. B.

"Blondie's Holiday"

(*Columbia*)

FURNISHING the usual light entertainment for the whole family, the Bumsteads go through another of their multiple crises with Dagwood bungling his way out of his job and back in again, while Blondie, anxious to impress her school-mates with Dagwood's success, offers to have Dagwood pay the check for a lavish reunion of their high school class. In a fast finish, in which Dagwood, having been caught by the police in a raid on a "bookie joint," is bailed out by his exasperated ex-boss, Jerome Cowan, all things come out right side up, with Dagwood appearing at the crucial moment at the reunion to rescue Blondie from embarrassment.

Produced by Burt Kelly and directed by Abby Berlin, from a screenplay by Constance Lee, the picture features Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms and Marjorie Kent, as the Bumsteads. Also in the cast are Sid Tomack, as a coarse racetrack tout who teaches Dagwood how to pick "winners," plus Grant Mitchell, Mary Young, Jeff York, Jody Gilbert and Anne Nagel.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

"The Lone Hand Texan"

(*Columbia*)

CHARLES STARRETT as the Durango Kid is pitted against feminine villainy in the person of Mary Newton, the principal point which distinguishes this one from its predecessors. Miss Newton, who appears to be living a respectable life in a newly-developed frontier oil center, actually heads a band of desperadoes bent on discouraging independent oil prospectors by blowing up their well riggings. She succeeds in deceiving all but Durango.

Smiley Burnette, who becomes smitten with Miss Newton, cavorts through some slap-stick sequences and renders a few Western ditties in company with a guitar-playing pair called Mustard and Gravy. The proceedings, marked with much hard-riding and gun-fighting, produce several quick-changes on Starrett's part whenever the appearance of the black-clad, masked Durango is necessary to strike fear in the hearts of the villains. Completing the cast are Fred Sears, Maude Prickett, George Chesebro, Robert Stevens, Bob Cason, and others. Ray Nazarro directed with an eye to fast action. Colbert Clark produced.

Running time, 57 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 6.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"The Devil Thumbs a Ride"

(*RKO Radio*)

LAWRENCE TIERNEY of "Dillinger" fame again cuts loose with pistol and fists in a portrayal of a stone-hearted, ruthless stick-up guy who dupes a traveling salesman into providing automobile transportation and a beach lodge hide-out in his unsuccessful attempt to elude the relentless arm of the law. The film is an elemental but peppy cops-and-robbers opus which should keep the customers wide-awake and watching. It appears destined to make box-office showings ranging from middling to good, depending on the tastes of patrons in given neighborhoods.

Following his killing of a theatre manager in a hold-up, Tierney hitches a ride with a gullible, somewhat inebriated salesman (Ted North) who later also accommodates a couple of girl hitch-hikers. Hot on Tierney's trail is detective Harry Shannon, accompanied by gas station attendant Glenn Vernon who had given the cops a tip-off on the criminal's possible whereabouts. Tierney stops at nothing to cover himself, not even at killing one of the girls, who had discovered his true identity. There are some exciting automobile-chase sequences and some comedy relief hinging upon Shannon's and Vernon's poker-playing propensities. Completing the cast are Nan Leslie, Betty Lawford, Andrew Tombes, Marian Carr, and others. Felix Feist directed, from his own screenplay, based on a novel by Robert C. DuSoe. Herman Schlom's production was given a good polish.

Running time, 62 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

C. L. F.

RCA's 1946 Net Is $10,985,053

Net earnings of Radio Corp. of America in 1946 amounted to $10,985,053, equivalent to 56 cents per share of common stock, it is disclosed in RCA's 27th annual report, released here by David Sarnoff, president, yesterday. This compares with $11,317,068 in 1945, when earnings, after payment of preferred dividends, were equivalent to 59 cents per share.

Total gross income from all sources amounted to $236,980,770, representing a decrease of 15 per cent, compared with the 1945 total of $279,503,615, when the corporation was still engaged in filling Government orders.

As of Dec. 31, 1946, RCA personnel numbered 39,361, representing an increase of 6,376 over the total at the end of 1945.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—British and Dominions Films has declared a final ordinary stock dividend of seven-and-one-half per cent for the year ending last October, making total declarations for the year 10 per cent, compared with seven-and-one-half per cent for 1945. Profits after taxation increased by $292,000, to $412,000. The company is also paying a three per cent interim dividend for this year.

Chase National Bank has sold some 4,000 shares of RKO Radio common stock underlying scrip certificates for fractional shares. Holders of the scrip certificates, which amount to 1/24th of a share each, have until March 19 to claim their shares of the proceeds of the sale, estimated at 58½ cents each.

Boasberg Luncheon At Astor, Mar. 27

Charles Boasberg, newly-appointed RKO Radio district manager, will be given a testimonial luncheon at the Hotel Astor on March 27 by a committee of local theatre owners, headed by Harry Brandt, and including the following:

Leo Brecher, Max A. Cohen, Oscar Doob, Julius Joelson, Malcolm Kingsberg, Walter Reade, Jr., Sam Rinzler, Sam Rosen, Edward N. Rugoff, Joseph Seider, Fred Schwartz, Sol Straussberg, Robert Weitman, William White, David Weinstock, chairman of the arrangements committee, and Ray Moon, chairman of the distributors' committee.

Vanguard Outdoor Ad

Vanguard Films is one of three advertisers participating in an outdoor motion picture advertising display which has been installed by Pixad, Inc., atop the building at 1485 Broadway here. The 450 square-foot screen operates in eight-minute cycles with three-minute intermissions.

Footballers to Films

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The War Department, reversing a previous decision, has granted football stars Glenn Davis and Felix (Doc) Blanchard permission to make a motion picture in Hollywood. Although the pair are understood to have made no definite arrangements with any studio, several are reported interested.

NCCJ Lauds Industry

(Continued from page 1)

Week" ended last Sunday.

Clinchy singled out the industry's trade papers for "special thanks" for their aid and cooperation in bringing the purpose of the drive to all parts of the industry.

While the special observance of "Brotherhood Week" has terminated, all speakers emphasized that their effort to enroll 250,000 new members would continue throughout the year, with Spyros P. Skouras, chairman of the film division, announcing that he has already consented to remain as head of next year's campaign.

Reports indicating last year's results were exceeded by 50 and 100 per cent in enrollment increases and donations, respectively, were given by David Weinstock, Robert W. Coyne, Tom Connors, Rodney H. Smith, Roger Ferri, Eddie Solomon, Emil Friedlander, Arthur Israel, Malcolm Kingsberg, Leon Bamberger, William White, Harry Greenman and Sam Shain. Chairman of the luncheon was J. Robert Rubin.

Also among those present were: Charles Alicoate, George Feinberg, Henry Ferber, William German, Joseph Stahl, Harry Goldberg, James Jerauld, Samuel Machnovitch, Gilbert Miller, Louis Novins, Irving Kaplan, Brock Pemberton, Herman Schleier, Max Seligman, Ned Shugrue, and M. H. Shapiro.

Crasto to Hong Kong As RKO Manager

J. Remi Crasto has been appointed RKO Radio manager in Hong Kong by Phil Reisman, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, the home office here announces. Crasto had been assistant manager in India.

Wolfe, Duff Leave RKO

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Manny Wolfe has resigned as head of the RKO Radio story and writing departments. A similar amicable agreement was reached between the studio and producer Warren Duff, who will leave upon completion of "Out of the Past." Neither has announced new affiliations.

Goldstone Joins RKO

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Richard Goldstone, formerly with M-G-M and Columbia, has joined RKO-Radio as a producer under the supervision of Dore Schary to make "specialized type" product, the nature of which is not revealed.

ATA on Bidding

(Continued from page 1)

petition to intervene in the case and from that part of the decision relating to bidding.

The appeal documents, prepared by Thurman Arnold for the ATA, and Paul Williams for the SCTOA, assert that if the distributors had entered into an agreement to conduct their sales on a competitive bidding basis they would have been in violation of the anti-trust law.

Interference with the property rights of the exhibitor is the basis of the objections raised.

George B. Brooks, counsel for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, said here last night that his organization's appeal papers are now being prepared and will be submitted to the court tomorrow.

Paramount and Press Toast French Star

Maud Lamy, Parisian actress, was given a luncheon by Paramount at the Hotel Astor, here, yesterday. Present from the company were: Russell Holman, Curtis Mitchell, Clement Crystal, C. N. Odell, Sid Mesibov, Paul Ackerman, Gordon Swarthout, Hal Pereira, Harry Bruckman, Mary Butler, Armand Cardea, Floyd C. Henry, Marian Jordan, Milton Kirshenberg, Abe Platt, Linda Salzberger, Edith Talcott and Ed Sullivan.

Several new Paramount features, as yet unselected, will be dubbed with foreign-language sound tracks according to a new, long-range contract signed with Edward J. and Harry Lee Danziger, owners of Eastern Sound studios. Eastern has already dubbed 21 Paramount pictures.

Hitchcock, Hamilton To Do Film Together

Patrick Hamilton, English playwright, will go to Hollywood in April to write the screenplay of his play, "Rope," which will be produced by Transatlantic Pictures and directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Hamilton also wrote "Gaslight," produced by M-G-M, and "Hangover Square," produced by 20th Century-Fox.

Hamilton has signed a deal with Sidney L. Bernstein, who is associated with Hitchcock in the new independent company.

William Truog Honored

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 26.—Reproduction of scenes in the life of William E. Truog, United Artists branch manager, were enacted by members of the industry at a party in his honor at the Muehlebach Hotel here. Elmer C. Rhoden of Fox' Midwest territory, presented Truog with a radio on behalf of friends. Arthur Cole was toastmaster.

Russell To Be Cited

Harold Russell, star of Samuel Goldwyn's "Best Years of Our Lives," will be presented with the first anniversary award plaque of *Salute Magazine* by Jeremiah Ingersoll, editor-publisher of the magazine, at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor on Monday. Fredric March is scheduled to be one of the speakers, and Gen. Omar Bradley is expected to be present.

Nutt Named RKO Editor

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—William Nutt has been appointed RKO Radio story editor under William J. Fadiman, executive assistant to Dore Schary.

Para. Price Drop Scores

(Continued from page 1)

from opening to one o'clock. Previously it had been scaled from 70 to 95 cents for that time period. The new attraction is "Suddenly It's Spring," with Johnny Long's orchestra on the stage.

The theatre management said 1,500 customers were on line when the house opened and the one o'clock check showed attendance of 8,400.

While the results of the admission cut at the Paramount were the focal point of attention of other Broadway theatremen, they reported business in the area was not affected to any apparent extent. All maintain that they are not considering reductions.

M. P. Forum

(Continued from page 1)

be a year or more away.

Wehrenberg declined to elaborate on the reasons for cancellation of the New York meeting and the abandonment of the plans for the forum for the time being. However, it is known that Allied States has not accepted the invitation to attend the March 10-11 meeting and that the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners had declined an invitation. The Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations, which was awaiting its cue from Allied, also has not responded.

Exhibitors observers here believe that these defections eliminated the possibility of any solid front of national exhibitor representation for the New York meeting and consequently for the forum itself.

The Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, of which Wehrenberg is president; the American Theatres Association, the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York and the Southern California Theatre Owners Association had announced their intention of attending the meeting.

Minnesota Sales Levy Faces Defeat

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—With Sen. Neumeier of Stillwater, leading the fight for a general two per cent sales tax, efforts to have the current session of the state legislature adopt the levy appeared to have collapsed when the speaker and majority leader in a joint statement declared that the measure is unnecessary, because "we have just passed through an era of great prosperity as far as government receipts in this state are concerned."

Wyoming Legislature By-Passes Industry

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—At least one state legislature will not have before it a proposal to raise admission taxes or impose new ones. The Wyoming legislature has closed its 1947 session without passing any measure of harm to the industry, The Motion Picture Association reports here. Wyoming was the first of 44 state legislatures to adjourn.

Eastern Seating Expands

Transfer of Eastern Seating Co. to larger quarters in Springfield Gardens, L. I., from its present site in Brooklyn is expected to be completed by Saturday.

Hoskwitz to Warners

Arnold Hoskwitz, formerly with Samuel Goldwyn and Myron Selznick, has joined Warners as assistant to Harry Mayer, new head of the talent department in New York.

Willingham, Ex-MGM Manager, Dies at 51

DALLAS, Feb. 26.—Jay Frank Willingham, 51, recently retired as M-G-M branch manager in St. Louis, died at his home here yesterday. He was stricken early last year. He is survived by his widow and a four-year old son.

A member of the Masonic Blud Lodge, Scottish Rite Masonic Cathedral, a Shriner, the American Legion and Variety Club, Willingham joined M-G-M in 1923 as booker and office manager, after having been with World Film, Select Pictures, American Releasing and Selznick Pictures.

M. Gerson's Family Gets Most of Estate

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26. — Morris Gerson, theatre owner who died on Jan. 29, left most of his $25,000 estate to members of his family. One share of stock each in the Colonial Amusement Co. and Borger Realty Co. went to his son, Philip, and his daughter, Mrs. Sadie Fertel. The rest of his estate Gerson left to his wife, Sadie.

Mrs. E. R. J. Hope, 90

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Elizabeth Raines Jefferson Hope, 90, mother of Mrs. Hope Burnup, manager of Quigley Publications' London Bureau, died today at her home in Sheffield. Peter Burnup, Mrs. Hope's son-in-law, is editor of the bureau.

NY Ad Bill

(Continued from page 1)

pending legislation.

State Chancellor William J. Wallin, one-time Yonkers mayor, said today that the bill was necessary "if we are to do a complete and effective job of censoring motion pictures, as a large body of people think we should do."

"If that is not our assignment," he continued, "some State agency should say so.

Wallin added that the authority vested by the bill would be used with discretion. Declaring that there was no intention of reviewing every piece of copy, he said that "all decisions would be reviewable by the courts."

"Assuming responsibility as spokesmen for the advertising and publicity personnel of the industry," the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers has gone on record as being opposed to the pending Wilson-Condon bill.

Rutgers Neilson, AMP president, by authority of the board of directors, in a telegram to Governor Dewey said, in part: "The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers strongly urges you to veto the Wilson-Condon motion picture censorship bill."

The industry's supplementary brief attacking the Wilson-Condon bill was sent to Governor Dewey last night.

DON'T WAIT!

Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service is READY NOW! Don't sign for any other trailer service until you learn about ours! Write, wire or phone Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois.

FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

Five Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

fixing deprives the defendants of their rights under the copyright laws and deprives the public of exceptional pictures.

That prohibition against owning theatres jointly with independent exhibitors, except for interests exceeding 95 per cent or not exceeding 5 per cent, "did not result from the trial of any issue tendered by the plaintiff."

And that the failure to permit the exhibitor defendants to acquire additional theatres to protect their investments or enter competitive fields "is far more restrictive" than the decree directed by the Supreme Court in the Crescent Amusement case.

Paramount's assignment of errors, while identical in many respects with that of the other four defendants, differs in three particulars. Besides appealing from single sales and competitive bidding, it objects much more lengthily to the partial-divestiture clause than do the co-appellants. Also, it accepts the ban on pooling agreements with independent exhibitors, while Loew's, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners cite that injunction as an error of the local court.

Court Said to be Wrong

Declaring that the court erred in finding that the defendants discriminated against small independent exhibitors, agreed with their licensees to grant discriminatory privileges to affiliated theatres and conspired as exhibitors to receive such privileges, the five companies specifically protest the court's judgment that they "acted in concert in their grant of clearance and run." While accepting the court's bans on clearance between theatres not in substantial competition, they object to having the burden of the proof of "reasonable" clearance in competitive situations placed upon the distributors.

Yesterday's appeal does not question the court's prohibition of franchise deals, formula deals and master agreements, although objection to these clauses was raised earlier in appeals by Universal and United Artists, which, along with Columbia, are the non-theatre-owning defendants in the case. Like these three defendants, Paramount appeals from the court's grant of a 20 per cent cancellation privilege on features sold prior to trade showing, but Loew's, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners accept this provision.

Industry Arbitration

With regard to industry arbitration, the five co-appellants point out that the court held that the system has "demonstrated its usefulness" and urged its continuance on a voluntary basis. "The court's holding that it lacked the power to continue the system is contrary to the decision in United States vs. Swift & Co.," the appeal declares.

The appellant's objection to the court's ban on fixing admission prices is predicated on the fact that many features are licensed on percentage terms. During the period of exhibition, the defendants declare, "the licensor has an immediate and direct interest in the admission prices charged. The prohibition imposed by the court has particular effect in the case of a feature of unusual cost,

(Continued in column 4)

"Carnegie Hall"

(Continued from page 1)

flirtation with those who prefer their notes hot.

Marsha Hunt is the mother, and William Prince grows up to be her piano-playing son. When they are not living in the shadow of Carnegie Hall, they are living right on the premises. The parade of the years throws mother and budding boy into contact with many of the noted virtuosi who play the Hall. But Prince leans toward the new in music, leaves home to join Monroe's band, comes back to write the "57th Street Rhapsody" in a debut at Carnegie. This reconciles mother and son and patches the temporary rift between the boy and his wife, Martha O'Driscoll.

THE narrative thread is not too weighty, nor is it new. But it is highly serviceable and made innocuously palatable under Edgar G. Ulmer's direction, aided by a nice array of performances chiefly in the hands of Miss Hunt, Prince, Frank McHugh and Miss O'Driscoll. Of this limited cast, the first three do the best jobs. Miss Hunt is understanding as the mother. Prince is boyish, enthusiastic and likeable in what is a better performance than any he rendered Warner. McHugh is the Irish attache and all-around Good Samaritan.

But the professional players are not the real stars of "Carnegie Hall." These are the real-to-life stars of the concert and orchestra stage. Unaccustomed to cameras and lights, all of them do unusually well in the dramatic bits which they are called upon to perform. In their real-to-life tasks as contemporary leaders in music they are, of course, completely professional and accomplished.

Producers William Le Baron and Boris Morros, moreover, were particularly adroit in tailoring their musical catalogue. Wisely, they have resisted whatever temptations perhaps confronted them to roam beyond the ken of the popularly known classics and near-classics. Thus, Walter Damrosch conducts parts of the Tschaikowsky piano concerto and one of the "Leonora" overtures of Beethoven. The list is too long to enumerate.

BY title itself, "Carnegie Hall" has an asset which will attract many and make others cautious. But what they will be seeing is a first-class job of picture-making, designed for a broad appeal and drawing upon established concertists to project this. Before any exhibitor predetermines that classical music is not for his audience he had better check around to fortify such a position. He will find more people like, and listen to, good music than he may suspect. This is something to bear well in mind when he considers "Carnegie Hall." He may find himself attracting patronage not normally flowing to his theatre and substantial reason to conclude his regulars will also be on hand, as usual.

Running time, 134 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

"Valley of Fear"

(Monogram)

JOHNNY MACK BROWN and his side-kick, Raymond Hatton, have their hands full in this story, which concerns a land-grabbing plot engineered by an ostensibly peaceable and trusted citizen of a frontier town. The villain, played by Steve Darrell, whose machinations are pretty well concealed from the townsfolk until the closing minutes of the film, leads the folks to believe that banker Tristram Coffin is the culprit who swindled them out of money so their mortgaged properties could be taken over by the Darrell interests. However, some clever investigating by Johnny and Hatton, followed by considerable shooting, fist-fighting and horseback chases, leads the two to the real swindler who is duly turned over to the law.

This is standard Western fare, liberally sprinkled with the kind of action which saddle-saga customers want. The cast is rounded out with Christine McIntyre, Ed Cassidy, Ted Adams, Eddie Parker, and others. Lambert Hillyer directed, from an original by J. Benton Cheney. Production was supervised by Charles J. Bigelow.

Running time, 54 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 15.

C. L. F.

"Before Him All Rome Trembled"

(Superfilm)

FACTUAL or not, "Before Him All Rome Trembled," which brings Anna Magnani to American audiences for the second time, on the heels of her triumph in "Open City," is exciting film fare which traverses the path of many a good U. S. cloak-and-dagger thriller about the underground in occupied Europe and its heroic contributions to the liberation. Ostensibly based on the work of Italian Anti-fascists operating in the Royal Opera House in Rome, the film, directed by Carmine Gallone from a script written by him, in collaboration with G. Gherard and C. Cataldo, offers a liberal portion of Puccini's "Tosca" as an integral part of the background and action. In fact, the opera quite obviously inspired the plot.

With English titles by Armando Macaluso providing an excellent explanation of the story as it unfolds, the picture is "art house" material not only because of the language barrier but also because of the operatic material. However, as a story about two opera stars, portrayed by Miss Magnani and Gino Sinimberghi, who shield an English agent at the risk of their own lives their associates among stagehands engineer a spectacular escape at the climax of a performance of "Tosca," it has flashes of suspense and action.

Apart from some annoying disturbances in the sound and an inability to capture fidelity in the reproduction of the music, "Before Him All Rome Trembled"—a title taken, incidentally, from the Puccini score—is a good "quality" picture, capably directed and skillfully acted. Its basic drawback lies in its slow pace, with the camera lingering too long on the opera performance thereby impeding momentum of the climax.

Running time, 105 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

I. K.

Five Appeal

(Continued from column 1)

where it is necessary to 'roadshow' the production. The limited number of such features precludes the possibility that their continued production and exhibition can be the basis of an unlawful monopoly. The decree as drawn will prevent the production in the future of such features," the appeal contends.

On the subject of partial divestiture, the appellants state that "the decree compels these exhibitor defendants to dispose of many valuable theatre interests, unless they can arrange to purchase the partial interest of their respective co-owners, and then only if they can obtain court approval of such purchase." Paramount, in addition, holds the the court erred in not specifically decreeing that the company might apply for permission "to retain any presently-owned partial interest in a theatre or group of theatres upon a showing to and finding by the court that retention of such partial interest did not and would not unreasonably restrain competition." Also in refusing to decree that "in any case where it is shown that a joint relationship between an exhibitor defendant and an independent exhibitor resulted from a sale by the defendant (or a trustee in bankruptcy), the defendant may apply to the court to continue such relationship to the extent to which, and in the places to which the parties were not in competition at the time of the sale."

The assignment filed by Loew's, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners alleges that the New York court made 39 errors, while Paramount cites 47. Included are virtually all the findings and conclusions with regard to price fixing, those with regard to run and clearance which hold that the defendants "acquiesced in and forwarded" a unified system, those which held that theatre interests owned jointly with independents enabled the parties to operate the houses "collectively rather than competitively" and eliminates competition; as well as the provision that the consent decree entered on Nov. 20, 1940, should be of no further effect.

Paramount and its affiliated companies asks that the "decree, judgment and final order be reversed and a judgment entered in favor of each of them." Loew's, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warners asks that the "decree, judgment and orders be reversed, modified or corrected and that appropriate judgment be entered."

15 Additional Films Get Legion Ratings

Fifteen additional features have been classified by the National Legion of Decency. One of these, "Man's Hope" (Spanish), Lopert Films, has been rated Class B. In Class A-I are: Lopert's "Cage of Nightingales" (French), RKO Radio's "Code of the West" and "The Farmer's Daughter," Republic's "Heldorado" and "Last Frontier Uprising," M-G-M's "It Happened in Brooklyn," PRC's "Law of the Lash," Universal's "Michigan Kid," and Columbia's "Over the Santa Fe Trail." Placed in Class A-II are: "Backlash," 20th Century-Fox; "Queen of the Amazons" and "Renegade Girl," both Screen Guild; "Suddenly It's Spring," Paramount, and "That Brennan Girl," Republic.

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

Vol. 61. NO. 41 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1947 TEN CENTS

Loew's Builds Cash to Buy Theatre Stock

Distribution Receipts Down; Theatres Up 8%

Although Loew's theatre business this year is running eight per cent ahead of the same period last year the company has refrained from declaring an extra dividend, Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president and treasurer, told the annual meeting of stockholders here yesterday, explaining that a factor is the possible need for cash reserves to buy up minority interests in houses jointly owned with independent exhibitors which are affected by the New York suit decree.

Charles Moskowitz

(Continued on page 7)

Loew's Directors, Officers Reelected

Loew's stockholders at a meeting here yesterday reelected all directors who in turn continued in office all officers of the company.

Officers are: Nicholas M. Schenck, president; vice presidents, J. Robert Rubin, Alexander Lichtman, Edgar J. Mannix, William F. Rodgers, Howard Dietz, Charles C. Moskowitz (treasurer), Joseph R. Vogel, Benjamin Thau, Leopold Friedman (secretary), and Marvin H. Schenck; assis-

(Continued on page 7)

43 Win in 'Dimes' '47 Drive Contest

Forty-three exhibitor "March of Dimes' contest winners were announced here yesterday at a Hotel Astor luncheon given by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to trade press publishers and their representatives who judged the campaigns of the 2,116 theatre contestants. Some

(Continued on page 6)

UA Weighs Changes In Its Management; Raftery May Retire

Management changes within United Artists are in the offing in consequence of the concentration last week of company ownership in the hands of Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin.

Preliminary discussions have been held concerning selection of a new president of the company to replace Edward C. Raftery who for long has wished to relinquish the post and return to his law practice from which he was drafted for the UA presidency in 1941.

Several names have been proposed already but discussions still are in such an early stage that such nominations have only the status of suggestions at the moment.

There has been mention, also, of the election of Arthur W. Kelly as a vice-president of the company. Kelly was associated with UA for many

(Continued on page 7)

PRC Managers Will Meet Here Saturday

Selling procedure for the remainder of 1946-47 and reissuing plants for nine Edward Small productions will be the chief topics at a two-day meeting of Producers Releasing Corp. district managers to be held here Saturday and Sunday at the Warwick

(Continued on page 7)

Decision Stay Seen Up to Chief Justice

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson of the U. S. Supreme Court probably will be called upon to rule on any motions for a stay in the effective date of competitive bidding and other provisions of the final decree in the industry anti-trust suit, according to legal observers here. Justice Jackson, they point out, normally rules on preliminary matters connected with appeals from the New York area but is expected to disqualify himself because he was Attorney General during a part of the time when the film case was before the Federal District Court here.

Columbia Will Ask For Bidding Stay

Columbia will ask the Supreme Court to postpone competitive bidding and single sales from the July 1, effective date set by the New York Federal District Court, until after the high tribunal rules on the company's appeal of the industry anti-trust suit, Louis Frohlich, Columbia counsel, said here yesterday.

At the same time, indication was given that Universal attorneys also lean toward asking for a stay of bidding and possibly some other features of the decree, although a final de-

(Continued on page 7)

MPA Urges Elimination of Trade Bars for Geneva

Provisions applying specifically to films guaranteeing their protection from discrimination in foreign countries is asked by the Motion Picture Association of the U. S. delegation to the international trade conference to begin April 10 in Geneva.

In a 43-page statement submitted to the Committee for Reciprocity Information, supplementary to one already given, the MPA sets down "for the convenience of the negotiators" what it terms as ideal trade arrangements to be sought, including the elimination of quota limitations except only where this would interfere with the operation of normal censorship laws and regulations.

The brief, signed by MPA presi-

(Continued on page 7)

Portuguese Solons Defeat Quota Bill

By JOAO DE MORAS PALMEIRO

LISBON, Feb. 26.—The Portuguese National Assembly has rejected the proposed new film quota law for this country, and is now weighing the few, relatively unimportant amendments which were added to the original text following its introduction.

Main points of the proposal were: All theatres must devote one week out of each six weeks' playing time to Portuguese product; all pictures en-

(Continued on page 6)

See Forum End A Death Knell Of Arbitration

No Plan to Continue System Remains Now

Wednesday's cancellation of the March 10-11 meeting here to discuss formation of a motion picture forum was seen by local exhibitors yesterday as a possible death knell to hopes for continuing the industry arbitration system on a voluntary basis beyond the April 1 termination date for its accepting cases under the jurisdiction of the New York Federal District Court.

Voluntary arbitration, endorsed by both the court and a number of exhibitor groups and leaders, had been placed prominently on the agenda of the March meeting by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, who called the session and then cancelled it because of some feeling that conciliation machinery should not be prepared until after the U. S. Supreme Court disposes of the industry anti-trust suit. That could be more than a year away.

(Continued on page 7)

WB Sets Clearance Plans Under Decree

Plans for abiding by the industry anti-trust suit's decree provision that clearance in competitive areas shall be "reasonable," with the burden of proof placed on the distributor, were discussed here yesterday afternoon at the opening session of a two-day meeting of Warner district managers. Ben

(Continued on page 7)

No Side Deals in UA Sales: Raftery

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 27.—Warning that "no side agreements can be written into contracts with exhibitors," Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president, in an opening-day address today told delegates to the company's four-day regional meeting at the Wil-

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

Key city grosses are given on page 6.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM

APPEALS of the five circuit-owning distributors from the New York decision in the Government's anti-trust case were in the hands of the clerk in Federal Court here for three hours on Wednesday when the six P.M. edition of the *New York Post* published this columnistic observation by Leonard Lyons: *"Both sides (Government and distributors) supposedly are appealing to the U. S. Supreme Court. The Government has filed its appeal, but the movie companies—content with the decision—won't sign an appeal."*

▽

The motion picture industry, indirectly, is responsible for the devastating revelation that a redhead is not necessarily a disrupting element in an office—we wouldn't know, 'cause there is none hereabouts—and also that a square-jawed individual may be as spineless as his jaw is square.

We have the word of Dr. W. Cook, assistant director of industrial relations for the General Aniline and Film Corp., parent of Ansco Film, that, "Scientific studies prove that such generalities are the bunk. Many redheads are weak and vacillating, and the number of chinless successes refutes the old theory that they are unfit for leadership."

▽

Mexico City's radio station regularly uses six—count 'em—cheery chirping canaries to announce sports programs. Sort of giving them the bird.

▽

A large likeness of "Bugs Bunny," Warner cartoon character, in fur coat and skis, appears in bright red on the cabin of the *Red Tailed Raider,* the Army Transport Command's C-54 that figured in the heroic rescue of the 11 stranded members of the wrecked B-29 in Greenland.

▽

Paramount stunt-flyer Paul Mantz, who has already hit 475 m.p.h., will, take to the air from Lockheed Terminal, Los Angeles, this morning, in his sleek 1,500-horse powered Mustang racer, "Blaze of Noon," headed for New York in an attempt to beat the present record of six hours.

▽

Lew Lehr tells the story about the 20th Century-Fox home office stenographer who, looking over an assortment of perfumes in a drugstore at 57th and Eighth, noticed such items as "Take Me," "My Sin," "Breathless," "One Glorious Night," and myriad other similarities, shly asked the sales clerk, "Haven't you anything for beginners?"

▽

Charles Dacus, MOTION PICTURE DAILY correspondent, proud Floridian of Miami, reports that it seldom rains down his way, but when it does, Mr. Bookbinder, manager of the out-door Colony Theatre, makes paper hats out of newspapers to protect his patrons from the "usual light drizzle."

Personal Mention

HERBERT J. YATES, Republic president, left New York last night for Hollywood.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount's Western division sales manager; HUGH BRALY, West Coast district manager, and the latter's assistant, HAROLD WIRTHWEIN, have left the Coast for the Mid-West.

•

WILLIAM C. EDDY, director of television for the Paramount-Balaban and Katz station in Chicago, WBKB, is en route to New York.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner International vice-president, will leave here Wednesday for a South American tour.

•

JACK PEGLER, New York general manager for Jerry Fairbanks, Inc., returned to Hollywood yesterday from New York.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, is due to return here on Monday from a Florida vacation.

•

HAROLD ZELTNER, M-G-M Pittsburgh salesman, is the father of a baby boy born Feb. 8 at Montefiore Hospital, that city.

•

DON PRINCE, RKO Radio foreign publicity director, will leave New York for Mexico City this weekend.

•

LEN GRUENBERG, RKO Radio New York district manager, was in Memphis this week.

•

A. M. KANE, Paramount district manager, has returned to Boston from Albany, N. Y.

•

SID BLUMENSTOCK, 20th Century-Fox assistant exploitation manager, is in New Orleans from New York.

•

JOE PASTERNAK, M-G-M producer, will return here in a few days from a Bahamas vacation.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, head of M-G-M's reprints and importations, has returned here from a Southern tour.

ERNEST EMERLING, advertising-publicity director of Loew's Theatres, left here yesterday for Atlanta and other points South.

•

LEON ERROL, RKO Radio star, will be honored by the West Coast Lambs Club at a dinner on March 15, in recognition of his 46 years in show business.

•

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK, 20th Century-Fox production head, and FRED L. METZLER, studio treasurer, entrained East yesterday for several weeks' conferences with SPYROS SKOURAS.

•

BART SHERIDAN, head of magazine publicity for Vanguard, is here from the Coast.

•

SEY ROMAN of Columbia's home office exploitation department, is the father of a new-born baby boy.

•

JOHN J. JONES head of Screen Guild Productions, is in Chicago from the Coast.

•

BEN JUDELL, independent producer, will leave Hollywood for New York on Sunday.

•

M. A. LIGHTMAN, SR., president of Malco Theatres, Memphis, is vacationing in Florida.

•

DUKE CLARK, Paramount's Dallas district manager, is visiting in Memphis.

•

TONY STERN, Warner film buyer in Cleveland, has left the hospital following a gall bladder operation.

•

I. J. SCHMERTZ, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, has returned to Cleveland from a Miami vacation.

•

M. N. WOLF, M-G-M Boston district manager, is vacationing in Florida.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation manager, has returned to New York from Boston.

•

CAROL REED, British director, left here yesterday for the Coast.

SRO Setting Up Atlanta Office

ATLANTA, Feb. 27.—Al Delcambre of Dallas, South-Southwest division manager of the Selznick Releasing Organization, is here to establish an SRO sales office which he expects to open by April 1. The Selznick company has announced that it will set up 21 sales offices throughout the country, independent of separate physical distribution facilities of National Film Distributors which will be used by SRO.

Reams Resigns Post

ATLANTA, Feb. 27.—Sid Reams, who was appointed Republic branch manager here three months ago, has resigned, effective immediately.

N.Y. Exhibitor Group In Tax Meet Today

The Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association will meet here today with John G. Bryson, assistant to Motion Picture Association president Eric A. Johnston, to discuss the newly-introduced measure in the New York State legislature which would give blanket authorization to cities and towns to draw additional tax revenues from any source, including theatres and films.

'Apley' Screening Mar. 5

"The Late George Apley," 20th Century-Fox, will be trade-screened in all exchange centers on March 5. The film was directed by Joseph Mankiewicz and produced by Fred Kohlmar.

Harry Paul Named RCA Southern Head

ATLANTA, Feb. 27.—Harry Paul will resign as branch manager of the Win-Kin Theatre Supply Co. here on March 15 to become Southern district manager of RCA, with headquarters here. Paul was Wil-Kin branch manager for nine years. Previously he was with National Theatre Supply Co. for 11 years.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
1st N.Y. Showing!
'MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'
DENNIS O'KEEFE
IN PERSON
MAX BAER
AND
SLAPSY MAXIE ROSENBLOOM

Paramount Presents
PAULETTE GODDARD
FRED MAC MURRAY
in
"SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG and His Orchestra
JOAN EDWARDS
LEWIS & VAN
BUDDY LESTER
DON BAKER at the Organ
PARAMOUNT — TIMES SQUARE

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances
ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

"CALIFORNIA"
IN TECHNICOLOR
A Paramount Picture Starring
RAY MILLAND
BARBARA STANWYCK
BARRY FITZGERALD
RIVOLI THEATER
B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

Betty GRABLE - Dick HAYMES
"THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture in Technicolor
PLUS ON STAGE — PETER LORRE
GIL LAMB - Extra! EVELYN KNIGHT
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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New Selection Basis For U-I Overseas

One of the main objectives of Universal - International's forthcoming Paris convention, for which Joseph A. Seidelman, head of the company's foreign operations, will leave New York on March 7 with a contingent of home office delegates, is to give U-I territorial managers an opportunity to select pictures for their individual countries before they are set for distribution, Seidelman disclosed here yesterday.

"In putting our foreign markets on a selective basis, we hope to meet successfully the particular demands of each country's audiences," Seidelman said, adding that "The Egg and I," "Time Out of Mind," "I'll Be Yours," "Song of Scheherazade," "Buck Privates Come Home," and a recently-completed French film, "The Devil in the Flesh," will be screened at the convention.

U-I Sets $1,000,000 For 'Egg' Promotion

With the addition of $150,000 for an advance "teaser" advertising campaign for "The Egg and I," Universal-International claims that it has set a record one-picture promotion budget of $1,000,000. The "teaser" campaign starts eight weeks in advance of the scheduled Easter openings, and is in addition to the $850,000 budget previously reported.

Music Hall Books "Egg"

Universal-International's "The Egg and I" will follow "The Late George Apley," the next attraction, into the Music Hall here. This will be the first U-I picture to play the house since International began producing at Universal Studios.

Fabian, Rosen Head Charity Institute

Si Fabian and Sam Rosen, partners in the operation of Fabian Theatres, have formed Fabian-Rosen Foundations, Inc., a charitable membership organization in which they and their respective families will participate. It is indicated that the organiaztion will contribute to the industry's Motion Picture Foundation as well as to other causes.

$2,000 for 'Pimpernels'

Grossing approximately $2,000 on the opening day at the New York Squire Theatre, Film Classics' re-releases, "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and "The Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel," have exceeded the theatre's previous opening day record by $500, Sydney Weiner, FC branch manager, reports here. Both were produced by Alexander Korda.

RKO Gets 5,020 Pledges

RKO Theatres secured 5,020 pledges during the recent "American Brotherhood Week," exclusive of those secured by the circuit's field personnel, Sol A. Schwartz, RKO Theatres general manager, reports.

'Henry V' in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Feb. 27.—"Henry V" will open a two-week engagement at the Taft Auditorium here tomorrow, on a $1.25-$2.50 scale.

Levinson to Handle Foreign Films Here

Mike J. Levinson is setting up offices in New York for the distribution of a series of foreign features to be presented by Levinson-Finney Enterprises, Inc. Levinson is organizing road-show engagements for prolonged runs in first-run keys throughout the U. S. and will first concentrate on the Eastern seaboard, then proceeding to Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis.

Edward Finney, associated with Levinson, is now getting the pictures ready. Those now completed include "Bel Ami," starring Willi Forst, and "Hello Janine."

Kumin Joins Cagney As Talent Chief

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Irving Kumin has been appointed executive in charge of talent for William Cagney Productions. Kumin resigned Jan. 1 as talent executive for Warners after a 15-year association with that company. Formerly the studio's casting director, Kumin entered the Army Air Forces in 1942, returning a year and a half ago as aide to Steve Trilling. A few months later he was handed the top talent spot.

Coast Judge Rejects 16 Carpenters' Suit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Federal Judge Ben Harrison today dismissed the suit brought three months ago by 16 carpenters charging the IATSE, the Conference of Studio Unions and 10 studios with conspiracy to deprive them of their right to work. The case, which attracted wide interest as a test of the right to work principle, was dismissed on the grounds that the Federal Court lacked jurisdiction.

IATSE Local Wins

Local No. H-63, IATSE, was designated yesterday as collective bargaining agent for "white collar" employes of Robbins, Feist and Miller, music publishing subsidiary of M-G-M. Negotiations for a contract, which will cover about 50 employes, are slated to get under way immediately.

Albany Workers' Union

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Cashiers, doormen, ushers, matrons and custodians of Albany theatres have established a unit of the projectionists union. Edward Foley, Strand doorman, has been elected president. No demands have been filed as yet.

Fox Theatre Changes

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Dick Dickson, formerly head of the maintenance and purchasing departments of Fox-West Coast Theatres, has been appointed Southern California division manager, thus permitting general manager George Bowser to devote more time to management and film problems arising out of the court decree. R. H. McCullough replaces Dickson.

Levee to be Feted

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—M. C. Levee, chairman of the Permanent Charities Committee's United Appeal, will be honored at a reception tendered next week by studio officials, campaign captains and representatives of all guilds and crafts.

Boston AAA Office In Clearance Award

Reduction of clearance held by the Strand and Albert Theatres of Berlin, N. H., operated by Allied Theatres of Berlin, over the Ritz Theatre of Gorham, N. H., in licenses from M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Brothers, Paramount and RKO Radio, from 30 days to 21 days was made in an award by the Boston tribunal of the American Arbitration Association. With the disposition of the complaint, filed by Ritz Amusements against the five companies and Allied Theatres, as intervenor, the Boston tribunal now has seven cases before it.

The arbitrator further held that the clearance would apply only to product shown by either the Strand or Albert within 60 days of availability. All pictures not shown by either of these theatres within that period shall become available to the Ritz immediately upon the expiration of the 60 days.

Theatre Lighting Bill In N. H. Legislature

CONCORD, N. H., Feb. 27. — A bill has been introduced in the New Hampshire legislature that would require theatres, dance halls, churches and other public buildings to install emergency lighting equipment.

The measure calls for installation of an auxiliary storage battery lighting system which would go on automatically in case the regular electric power failed.

St. Louis Union Told To End Permit Cards

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27. — International headquarters of the Theatrical Brotherhood has ordered St. Louis local No. 6 to stop issuing permit cards to stagehands. Thirty-three men holding permit cards have been admitted to the union as full-fledged members. Permit cards are described by a union representative as "not in keeping with our international rules."

Children's Admissions

HARTFORD, Feb. 27.—The Connecticut Legislature's Judiciary Committee today reported favorably on a bill which would permit children under 14 to attend motion picture theatres after six P.M. without parents.

Para. Declares Dividend

Paramount Pictures yesterday declared a regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share, payable on March 31 to stockholders of record on March 11.

Republic Dividend

Republic Pictures' board of directors yesterday declared a regular quarterly dividend of 25 cents per share on preferred stock, payable on April 1 to stockholders of record on March 10.

Columbia Stock Dividend

The board of directors of Columbia Pictures has declared a common stock dividend of two and a half per cent, payable on May 9 to stockholders of record on April 24. Fractional shares arising from the dividend will be paid for in cash.

Dewey Said To Be Studying Local Taxes

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 27.—A report printed today of Governor Dewey's special committee on education, in recommending teachers' salary boosts, stated that "It has already been indicated that the Administration will recommend that additional taxing power be conferred locally for educational purposes in connection with a general program of increased local taxing power."

The report continued: "This is outside the direct purposes of this committee, and we understand that the details concerning these special local taxes will be forthcoming within a few days."

N. Y. Exhibitors Wire Local Tax Protest

BUFFALO, Feb. 27.—Representing approximately 400 theatres in this State, the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of New York State, Inc., today wired Governor Dewey urging defeat of the measure introduced by Sen. Chauncey B. Hammond which would allow municipalities to levy discriminatory taxes against local businesses. The wire was signed by president Merritt A. Kyser.

Pottstown, Pa., Tax Fought by Warners

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—Suit has been filed by Warner Theatres, Inc., in Montgomery County against the borough of Pottstown to declare invalid the five per cent tax on admissions. Warners claims the tax, passed last December, is increasing the annual county fee for operation of its house, the Strand, from $100 to $10,000. William Goldman, who operates the Hippodrome in Pottstown, said his company has filed a similar suit.

Suit will be tried on Friday before Judge William F. Dannenhower in the Court of Quarter Sessions, county of Montgomery.

Atlantic City Tax Being Considered

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 27. — A bill which would permit New Jersey municipalities to tax amusements, tobacco, hotel rooms and liquor five per cent will be introduced in the New Jersey Legislature by representatives of this county early in March.

The bill is designed to replace the former "luxury-tax" which has been called unconstitutional by the state Supreme court which decision was upheld by the Court of Errors and Appeals.

Maine Solons Get Admission Tax Bill

AUGUSTA, Me., Feb. 27. — A bill providing for a five per cent tax on theatre admissions to finance a state soldiers' bonus in Maine has been introduced in the state legislature. The tax would also apply to dance halls and juke boxes.

The Vermont legislature has voted down, 131 to 94, a bill which would allow motion pictures, basketball and football on Sunday afternoons.

School Films Asked

HARTFORD, Feb. 27.—Rep. Edgerton has introduced a bill which would authorize the board of education to promote visual education in public schools.

THIS IS THE AD THAT STARTS THE Boom FOR Boomerang! IN NEW YORK'S 10 GREAT NEWSPAPERS

THIS IS THE UNPARALLELED PARADE OF BOXOFFICE RECORD-BREAKERS NOW PLAYING AND ON THE WAY FROM 20th CENTURY-FOX

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

13 RUE MADELEINE

BOOMERANG!

THE LATE GEORGE APLEY

THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA
In Technicolor!

THE HOMESTRETCH
In Technicolor!

MOSS ROSE

MIRACLE ON 34th STREET

BOB, SON OF BATTLE
In Technicolor!

KISS OF DEATH

NIGHTMARE ALLEY

CALL NORTHSIDE 777

I WONDER WHO'S KISSING HER NOW
In Technicolor!

MOTHER WORE TIGHTS
In Technicolor!

THE FOXES OF HARROW

FOREVER AMBER
In Technicolor!

CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE
In Technicolor!

This is the TRUTH!

No Fiction Writer Could Create Such Drama!

...Told how it happened!
...Filmed the way it happened!

Boomerang! brings to a stunning climax of perfection the technique 20th Century-Fox made famous in "The House On 92nd Street" and "13 Rue Madeleine"

Because it is *real... true... authentic...* ***Boomerang!*** is a new kind of motion picture, lifted, alive and pulsating, out of life itself!

20th CENTURY-FOX TRIUMPH!

Darryl F. Zanuck
Presents
DANA ANDREWS
Boomerang!
with
JANE WYATT · LEE J. COBB
Directed by ELIA KAZAN
Produced by
LOUIS de ROCHEMONT

Screen Play by Richard Murphy • Based Upon an Article by Anthony Abbot, Published in the Reader's Digest

Next Attraction **ROXY** COMING SOON!
7th AVE. & 50th ST.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BOSTON

A majority of local houses are showing satisfactory business for the week. Estimated receipts for the week ended Feb. 27:

SWELL GUY (U-I) — BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10) Stage show: Lionel Hampton orchestra. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $27,500)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and MR. HEX (Mono.)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c) Gross $6,000. (Average: $6,900)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c) Gross: $38,000. (Average: $25,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c) Gross: $26,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c) 4th week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $23,500)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and MR. HEX (Mono.) — PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c) Gross: $13,500. (Average: $15,100)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — STATE (2,900) (35c-80c) 4th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $16,900)

CLEVELAND

"Sinbad the Sailor" played to good attendance, while business at other theatres was fair. The city escaped the heavy Eastern snow storm. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26-27:

BLUE SKIES (Para.)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,000)
LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,800)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $11,000)
MURDER IN REVERSE (Four Continents)—LOWER MALL (563) (45c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,500)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $21,400)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $22,600)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,650)

CINCINNATI

Although there are some bright spots on the box office horizon. grosses generally are below the figures registered in recent weeks. The weekend weather was cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 23-27:

THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000)
BLUE SKIES (Para.) — RKO FAMILY (1,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 5th week, after an initial two weeks at the Albee, and two moveover weeks at the Shubert. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,500)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,000)
THE SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $7,500)
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 4th week, following two initial weeks at the Palace and a first moveover week at the Lyric. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (40c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Albee. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000)

OMAHA

Business hovered around average as snow flurries discouraged weekend attendance. Estimated receipts for the week ending Feb. 26-27:

THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M) and IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG (Col.)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $8,600)
TWO SMART PEOPLE (M-G-M) and TALK ABOUT A LADY (Col.)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,300. (Average: $9,400)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,600. (Average: $11,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) and BETTY COED (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,400. (Average: $6,800)

Short Subjects . . .

"Goofy Gophers"

(*Warner Brothers*)

A prize-winning vegetable patch is carefully guarded by a watchdog, but two gophers manage to raid it anyway. They got the dog off their trail, but encounter new competition in the person of Bugs Bunny. In Technicolor. Running time, seven minutes.

"Monkey-Tone News"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

Lew Lehr in this "Dribble-Puss Parade" issue, pops up with the commentary for a newsreel-like presentation of comical stunts. Running time, nine minutes.

"Follow that Music"

(*RKO Radio*)

Gene Krupa and his band, with Nan Leslie, furnish the music and acting in which Gene, the small-town favorite son, takes his band to New York for a seven-league jump to success, while he leaves his fiancee and soloist at the town radio station, where she is spotted by a talent scout and lands a job at a New York nitery, while the boys are having tough going in the big city. But it all turns out all right, after a couple of jam sessions and a sequence in which the boys dress as Russians to get a job and are chased by immigration authorities. Running time, 18 minutes.

"The Singing Barbers"

(*Universal*)

Four singing barbers and a cowboy sing "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and "Oh, You Beautiful Doll." The Gordonaires of Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians are also featured. Running time, nine minutes.

"Music Through the Ages"

(*Superfilm*)

Accompanied by artful photography which has captured the scenic landscape of the Italian countryside, "Music Through the Ages" traces the development of music from the early Gregorian chants down through such masters as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini, Chopin, Verdi and others, concluding with music and scenes from the "jazz era." An English commentary elaborates on the visual presentation. Running time, 16 minutes.

"Summer Trails"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

The subject covers the trail of four lads through the beautiful Pocono Mountain scenery at Buckhill Falls in Pennsylvania. Pausing for some fishing, the scene follows the trail to Wellsboro, the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. Running time, eight minutes.

"Sleepy Time Donald"

(*Walt Disney-RKO Radio*)

Donald Duck proves to be a very sound sleepwalker as he goes through some hair-raising adventures, including a walk through the zoo and a fly-like stroll along skyscrapers, with his girl-friend, Daisy, taking most of the punishment. In Technicolor. Running time, seven minutes.

Hellman, Zanuck to Confer

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Marcel Hellman, managing producer-director of Excelsior Productions will fly on March 5 to Hollywood for discussions with Daryll Zanuck on the proposed worldwide release of Excelsior product through 20th Century-Fox. Hellman will also seek a loan of American stars.

Raftery on UA Sales

(*Continued from page 1*)

liam Penn Hotel here that under the sales procedure decreed by the New York Federal Court such agreements "will be termed unlawful" and "leave the burden of responsibility upon the distributor."

Raftery also recommended that UA place a series of institutional advertisements to explain the company's policy. Other speakers at today's meeting of delegates of the Pennsylvania-Washington and Central districts were: J. J. Unger, general sales manager; Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern and Canadian sales manager, and Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director.

UA product to be seen by the delegates include: Loew-Lewin's "The Private Affairs of Bel Ami"; Enterprise-Sherman's "Ramrod"; California Pictures' "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock"; Benedict Bogeaus' "The Macomber Affair"; Jules Levey's "New Orleans"; Enterprise's "The Other Love"; Hunt Stromberg's "Dishonored Lady"; Federal Films' "Carnegie Hall"; Charles R. Rogers' "The Fabulous Dorseys," Andrew Stone's "Fun on a Weekend."

Fire Follows Repairs

BRAZIL, Ind., Feb. 27.—A fire believed to have originated in or near the projection room swept the Sourwine Theatre here.

Carolina Theatre Fire

HENDERSON, N. C., Feb. 27.—Fire destroyed the Vance Theatre and a tobacco warehouse here.

'Dimes' Drive Winners

(*Continued from page 1*)

7,000 theatres participated in this year's campaign.

Also present at the luncheon were: Warren D. Coss, National Foundation director: Emil Jensen, film campaign director; Charles Reed Jones, publicity director; Joseph W. Savage and John J. O'Connell, of the Foundation; Lillian Feldman and Thomas J. Murphy of the film, March of Dimes; Glendon Allvine, MPA; Dave Badesti- and Jack Alicoate, chairman of the judging committee.

Winners in contest No. 1, on the basis of the most dimes per seat, first to 14th places in the order named were: Lamar Swift, Capitol Theatre, Macon, Ga.; John L. Miller, Henry's, Hagerstown, Md.; Jack Foxe, Columbia, Washington; J. Cleveland Hester, Florida, Pensacola; Joel Margolis, Capitol, Washington; Fred MacMillan, Earle, Washington; J. Elmer Redelle, Victory, Dayton; Orangelo Ratto, Palace, Washington; M. Thode, Princess, Honolulu; Notis Komnenos, State, Jersey City; Sol Sorkin, RKO Keith's, Washington; Roland Robbins, Trans-Lux, Washington; Mrs. Louise Neonan Miller, Little, Washington, and Sante Macci, Wayne, Greenville, O.

Winners in contest No. 2, on the basis of the largest percentage of collection increases over last year, first to 14th places, in the order named, were: S. Frank, Chief Theatre, Coldwater, Kan.; Ray Syufy, Rita, Vallejo, Cal.; Thomas R. Stancil, Rialto, Grayling, Mich.; Elaine S. George, Star, Heppner, Ore., W. E. Anderson, Palace, Mt. Jewett, Pa.; Gerald Anderson, Union, Richwood, O.; L. Frederick, Minnesota Lake, Lake Bronson, Minn.; Marjorie M. Muzik, Lee, Carson City, Mich.; M. L. Reibold, Princeton, Princeton, Wis.; Carl Mansfield, Colfax, Schuyler, Neb.; Douglas D. Bunch, Parkway, West Jefferson, N. C.; Roy C. Hallowell, Amus U, La Harpe, Ill.; Mrs. E. F. Weinreich, Flasher, Flasher, N. D., and G. Wise, West End, Birmingham.

Winners in contest No. 3, division No. 1, on the basis of the largest percentage increase in collections for theatres with a seating capacity of 300 or less, first to third places, in the order named, were: Harry Bert Lee, Rialto Theatre, Terry, Mont.; Gerard Lavigne, Roxy, Island Pond, Vt., and Frances M. Wright, Rialto, La Bell, Mo.

In contest No. 3, division No. 2, on the basis of percentage increase for theatres with seating capacities of 301 to 600, the three winners were: Paul Horton, State Theatre, Inman, S. C.; Milburn Kenworthy, Nuart, Moscow, Id., and Earl S. McKendrick, Eldred, Eldred, Pa.

Division No. 3, for theatres with seating capacities of 601 to 1,000, the three winners were: Allan Koff, Murray Theatre, Rochester, N. Y.; E. Chadwick, Beverly, Peoria, Ill., and Jack A. Cameron, Ritz, Bartow, Fla.

Division No. 4, for theatres with capacities of 1,001 to 1,500, the three winners were: George P. Santer, Radio City, Ferndale, Mich.; William C. Riester, Capitol, Shamokin, Pa., and Walter D. Heaney, Mayfair, West New York, N. J.

Division No. 5, for theatres with capacities of 1,501 and over, the three winners were: N. A. Meyers, Adams Theatre, Detroit; James A. Field, Paramount, Salem, Mass., and Harvey G. Cocks, Palace, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Portuguese Quota

(*Continued from page 1*)

tering Portugal must obtain a special license from the Board of Public Entertainment and must be passed by the censor; money obtained from the licenses to go into a fund to protect the national Portuguese film industry; no Portuguese theatre may be owned or exploited by any foreign company or individual; the screening of any pictures dubbed into Portuguese in a foreign laboratory would not be permitted. An exception was made in the case of Brazilian films.

The amendments still to be decided upon involve a reduction in exhibition licenses for short features and newsreels and exemption of all short features imported into the country prior to Dec. 31, 1946, from dubbing regulations.

RKO Shifts 8 Field Staffers, Adds Two

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Addition of two new staff men, Keith Bain in Omaha and Leo Young in Oklahoma City, and the transfer of eight in the field staff has been announced by Terry Turner, head of exploitation for RKO Radio, who is visiting here from New York.

The shifted personnel include: Bill Prager, from Chicago to Washington; Wally Heim, Cincinnati to Chicago; Hugh McKenzie, St. Louis to Cincinnati; Lou Carroll, Milwaukee to St. Louis; Carol Weld, Atlanta to Memphis; Charles Kinney, New Orleans to Atlanta; Jack Quirk, New Haven to New Orleans; Fred Ford, Memphis to Milwaukee.

Loew's Builds

(*Continued from page* 1)

Under the decree the five exhibitor defendants, including Loew's, have been given until Dec. 31, 1948, to reduce their partnership holdings at least to five per cent per theatre or increase them at least to 95 per cent.

Regarding the present increased business trend, Moskowitz said he looked for no early decline, although unpredictable factors may influence future grosses. His optimistic opinion was shared by Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president and head of the Loew circuit, who told the stockholders that New York's Broadway theatres, some of which have suffered a dip in receipts, are an inadequate criterion of conditions throughout the country. He expects a continuing drop here, attributing this to fewer visitors and an apparent lessening in the popularity of stage-show jazz bands.

Experiments with single features in some houses heretofore operating on a double-bill policy have met with public resentment, Vogel said. J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and general counsel, who presided at the meeting, pointed out that 70 per cent of the exhibitors in the U. S. offer double bills.

Loew's revenue from film sales for the first quarter of the current fiscal year fell below receipts for the same period in 1946, according to Moskowitz, who added that the trend has been better during the second quarter, which will end March 13, and that he expects the early decline to be overcome.

In compliance with the anti-trust suit decree, Loew's few remaining pooling agreements will be dissolved by the July 1 deadline, Vogel reported. A pool with the Fabian circuit was liquidated last September, he pointed out.

The company's new recording plant at Bloomfield, N. J., will send its first records to dealers in the East within 10 days, Moskowitz announced.

Loew's Re-Elects

(*Continued from page* 1)

tant seeretaries Jesse T. Mills (controller), Nicholas Nayfack, Irving H. Greenfield and Harold J. Cleary; assistant treasurers, Charles K. Stern, Louis K. Sidney and R. Lazarus.

Directors are Friedman, Eugene W. Leake, Moskowitz, William A. Parker, Rodgers, Rubin, Schenek, Vogel, David Warfield and Henry Rogers Winthrop.

Forum's End

(*Continued from page* 1)

Although voluntary arbitration undoubtedly will come up at the convention of the American Theatres Association, planned for either Washington or Chicago in April, indications are that some 23 of the 31 tribunals functioning under the present system will have to be discontinued before that date, with the remainder existing beyond then only until they can dispose of the old cases on their agendas. Also, it is pointed out, since many exhibitors are not ATA members, additional time would be required to expand any movement launched at the convention.

The five theatre-owning film companies—Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners—which have settled many distribution disputes with exhibitors through the arbitration tribunals under the 1940 consent decree, have appealed to the Supreme Court for continuation of the system but have indicated that they will not ask for a stay of the New York court's dissolution order, and legal observers believe the judges in Washington will not be able to rule on the case until early next year. These companies have been conspicuously silent regarding the local court's voluntary arbitration plea, but numerous exhibitors have felt that they would go along on the plan if the independent owners throughout the country first would demonstrate that they desired such a system.

Department of Justice officials have expressed opposition to continuation of industry arbitration and, it is assumed, are prepared to counter distributor-defendants' appeals in the Supreme Court on the issue.

PRC Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

Hotel. Ralph C. Clark, PRC general sales manager, recently appointed, will preside at this, his first PRC sales session.

The nine reissues are: "Kit Carson," "The Last of the Mohicans," "South of Pago Pago," "International Lady," "The Corsican Brothers," "My Son, My Son," "The Man in the Iron Mask," "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "The Son of Monte Cristo."

The meeting will also discuss plans for the Eddie Dean outdoor musical adventures and the "Lash" LaRue-Al-"Fuzzy" St. John action Westerns.

Clark will be assisted at the meetings by Harold S. Dunn, assistant general sales manager. District sales executives attending will include: Max Roth, Eastern sales manager; Al Herman, New England manager; Joe Miller, New York State manager; James Hendel, district manager of Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Cincinnati; Fred Rohrs, Washington-Philadelphia district manager; Grover Parsons, Southern manager; William Sherman, Midwestern manager; Abbot M. Swartz, Minneapolis-Milwaukee district manager; Beverly Miller, Western manager.

Home office executives who will attend include: Frank Soule, Jack Bellman, Phil Gettelson, George Fleitman, Elmer Hollander, Abe Sutton, Neil Astrin, Joe Sugar, Frank Heffernan and New York branch manager Seymour Schussell.

Charge Circuit With Fraud, 'Bicycling'

PHOENIX, Feb. 27.—Percentage fraud and "bicycling" charges are combined for the first time in four separate suits filed here yesterday in U. S. District Court by Paramount, Warner Bros., Loew's and 20th Century-Fox against Louis F. Long, operating 23 Arizona theatres.

Columbia and RKO, in two other suits, charged only infringements of copyright by unauthorized exhibitions.

Damages are asked on the percentage claims and for each copyright infringement.

UA Changes

(*Continued from page* 1)

years, at various times having been a vice-president, head of distribution, foreign manager and chairman of the finance committee. He left UA in 1944 to organize Eagle-Lion here for J. Arthur Rank. Kelly is now in England.

It is stated that Miss Pickford and Chaplin are desirous of having Gradwell L. Sears continue as vice-president in charge of distribution and George Bagnall in charge of production affairs.

Some management changes may be effected by the UA board in the near future but it appears unlikely that a successor to Raftery will be elected before the company's annual meeting in May.

Raftery was in Pittsburgh and could not be reached for comment yesterday. However, he has on more than one occasion since assuming the UA presidency expressed his intention of returning to his law firm, O'Brien, Driscoll, Raftery and Lawler, as soon as conditions within UA permitted him to do so. It is recalled that when he was drafted for the post he agreed to serve for only one year and without a contract.

The O'Brien, Driscoll, Raftery and Lawler firm has been counsel for UA since the company was founded. The relationship is not expected to be affected by Raftery's withdrawal from the UA presidency.

A public issue of United Artists stock has been discussed with underwriters and while no action is contemplated for the present a public stock sale remains a possibility for the future.

WB Clearance Plans

(*Continued from page* 1)

Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager, presided, and the court's requirements were explained by Robert W. Perkins, vice-president and general counsel, and Howard Levinson of the legal department.

The decree's competitive bidding provisions will be outlined at today's session, at which time, presumably, plans will be made for placing the company's bidding policy in effect. Previously it had been indicated that Warners would not offer any films competitively until July 1, when the system becomes officially effective—or later if the Supreme Court should grant a stay. Competitive bidding, however, was not included in the appeal of the case filed here Thursday by the company, along with Loew's, RKO, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox.

MPA Urges

(*Continued from page* 1)

dent Eric A. Johnston, and prepared with the assistance of Allen W. Dulles of the New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, maintains that reciprocal trade agreements in the past were made with the view of protecting the ordinary article of commerce generally on a most-favored-nation basis but because of its special characteristics the U. S. film industry was subjected to "very special" restrictions.

It is pointed out that the American distributor is hardest hit by restrictions on all foreign films in countries where Hollywood pictures virtually may be the only ones imported. This is one of several examples cited in which international trade pacts are agreeable to other U. S. industries but detrimental to American pictures.

Exemption Asked

MPA asks that U. S. films be exempt from internal taxes and charges other than those imposed on other foreign or domestic films. Specifically, the U. S. industry wants at least the same treatment given the foreign trade of any other country by any foreign government.

It would eliminate the requirement of import permits for advertising material for exposed films of U. S. origin. There would be no demand that a picture be dubbed in the country where it is to be distributed. Branch offices would be established in any country in conformity with that country's laws.

Importers of U. S. product shall not be required as a condition to the importation, distribution and sale of such product, to purchase or handle films of any other origin or to be a member of "any official, semi-official or private trade organization."

Equal Consideration

As for remittances from any foreign government, MPA wants the same considerations as are given to other industries, again on the most-favored-nation basis. Newsreels would be exempt from customs duties and censorship upon their importation by any foreign nation.

MPA proposes that in no case will a foreign government impose new restrictive measures without consultation with U. S. Government representatives. It frankly recognizes that these conditions could hardly be obtained in some countries but suggests that efforts be made to obtain as mar of them as possible.

The organization states that pects to have representation Geneva conferences and that Jo will re-arrange his European tra to be present if necessary.

Bidding Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

cision has not yet been reached.

United Artists, however, definitely will not ask for a stay of any parts of the decree, a spokesman for that company's counsel declared, and, as reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the five theatre-owning defendants have indicated that a stay request from them is unlikely. Joseph M. Proskauer, special attorney for Warners, is understood to have told the attorneys that, in his opinion, the Supreme Court would not be inclined to grant any stays, inasmuch as the New York judges denied them.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Feb. 1		(Feb. Releases)			(Eagle-Lion) IT'S A JOKE, SON Kenny Delmar Una Merkel C—64 mins. (Rev. 1/21/47)	CALENDAR GIRL Jane Frazee William Marshall M—88 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)	(Liberty Special) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE James Stewart Donna Reed D—130 mins. (781) (Rev. 12/19/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Hopalong Cassidy) FOOL'S GOLD William Boyd O—65 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)		
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	(Eagle-Lion) BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)		SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild D—72 mins.	(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D—100 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins.			ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich O—100 mins. (Rev. 2/6/47)	SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)			
Feb. 22	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	FALL GUY Robert Armstrong D	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John O—58 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins.	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (Reissue) (Rev. 10/29/41)	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey Janet Blair		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1		(March Releases)	THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)			(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8	13TH HOUR Richard Dix D—65 mins. THE LONE HAND TEXAN	(Special) THE YEARLING (Color) Gregory Peck Jane Wyman D—134 mins. (Rev. 11/27/46)	HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas	EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)		(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders	(Reissue) WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15	(March Release) JOHNNY O'CLOCK Dick Powell Evelyn Keyes D—85 mins. (Rev. 1/2/47)	BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)	TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown			THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22	MILLIE'S DAUGHTER Gladys George Gay Nelson D—70 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)		SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore			(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29	WEST OF DODGE CITY Chas. Starrett Smiley Burnette		VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY			(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID (Color) Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	THAT WAY WITH WOMEN Sydney Greenstreet Martha Vickers C—85 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)
April 5	KING OF THE WILD HORSES Preston Foster Gail Patrick			MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker	TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR			(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)		
April 12	BLONDIE'S HOLIDAY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake				FRONTIER FIGHTERS Buster Crabbe Fuzzy St. John	BELLS OF SAN ANGELO Roy Rogers Dale Evans					

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Da*

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 42 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1947 | TEN CENTS

New Cases Will Prolong Life Of Arbitration

Filings in N. Y., Ohio; 3 Others in Preparation

Evidences of renewed exhibitor interest in the industry arbitration system were disclosed on Friday with the filing of new complaints in New York and Cleveland and indications that additional complaints will be filed within the next few days in Albany, New Haven and Cincinnati.

The arbitration tribunals may accept new cases up to April 1 and tribunals which have cases pending before them then may remain in existence until those cases are disposed of.

Accordingly there has been trade speculation whether the recent and current activity is indicative of independent exhibitor interest in seeing the boards maintained for as long as possible despite Department of Justice

(*Continued on page 6*)

Record High Is Hit By Admission Taxes

WASHINGTON, March 2. — Federal admission tax collections reached an all-time high of $454,928,352 during the calendar year of 1946, compared with $375,306,023 for 1945, the Bureau of Internal Revenue reported on Friday. Between 80 and 90 per cent of both totals represent receipts

(*Continued on page 6*)

Levin Appoints Five District Managers

John J. Shine, Frank S. Ingres, Otto Stradley, Barry Halbert and Arthur W. Davis have been named district managers of Confidential Reports, Inc., by Jack H. Levin.

Shine will work out of the Atlanta office, covering Charlotte, Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans, and Oklahoma City; Ingres, from the Chicago office, will cover Des Moines, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Omaha, and St. Louis; Stradley, in Cleveland, will cover Buffalo, Detroit, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Pittsburgh; Halbert, in Los Angeles, will cover Denver, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Davis, from Philadelphia, will cover Albany, Boston, New Haven, New York, and Washington.

Exhibitor Records Seized in Court Tilt on Percentages

PITTSBURGH, March 2.—Seizure of an exhibitor's books and records and removing them from his theatre office is the latest move in the distributors' prosecutions on claims alleging monetary withholdings on the playing of percentage pictures. This is believed to be the first such seizure in this type of case.

An order was signed by U. S. District Judge McVicar in Federal Court directing the U. S. Marshal here to seize and impound books and records in the office of Bart Dattola in the New Dattola Theatre, at New Kensington, Pa. The order also provides that counsel for all parties and their auditors may have access to the impounded records at all reasonable times.

The seizure order arose in the course of inspection of theatre records of 19 exhibitor plaintiffs now being made for eight distributors under a supplementary order granted

(*Continued on page 6*)

Columbia Half-Year Profit, $1,560,000

A net profit of $1,560,000 for the 26-week period ended Dec. 28, 1946, was reported at the weekend by Columbia. This compares with $1,295,000 for the same period of the previous year.

The company reports an operating profit of $2,480,000 for the period, compared with $2,250,000 in 1945. Estimated provision for Federal taxes for the 26 weeks in 1946 amounts to $920,000; in 1945, the amount was $955,000.

The comparative earnings per share

(*Continued on page 6*)

Showmanship Award To Be Judged Today

The work of 22 finalists competing for the annual Quigley Showmanship Awards will be appraised by more than 100 industry executives of the Quigley Awards Committee, at the Hotel Astor, here, today. Following the appraisings, Martin Quigley will be host at a luncheon at which Sol A. Schwartz, vice-president in charge of theatres for RKO Service Corp., will be the principal speaker. Many out-of-town theatre executives and exhibitors will attend.

Italy Keeping Lid On Film Profits

By ARGEO SANTUCCI

ROME, Feb. 24 (By Airmail)—While no quota restrictions against foreign product appears to be in the offing, according to informed industry spokesmen here, it is possible that earnings of foreign pictures will still have to be held in blocked accounts. That investment of these earnings will continue under government control seems certain, according to these observers.

Concerned over the prohibition against converting lire into dollars, American companies in Italy have indicated their dissatisfaction and point to the ban as making unprofitable the distribution of pictures which cost, on the average, about $13,500 for dubbing, prints and advertising.

This country's banks need government permission to spend earnings from the exploitation of foreign pictures in blocked accounts, but this rule may be relaxed to enable American companies to invest in Italian stocks.

"It Happened in Brooklyn"

[*M-G-M*] — A Can't-Miss Musical

LET'S see about this one: There's Frank Sinatra, as faithful a son as Brooklyn has ever known; Jimmy Durante, combining the mellow with his inimitable brand of humor; Kathryn Grayson, ready for song and romance and finding both; Peter Lawford, the young folks' delight; warmly sympathetic direction by Richard Whorf under the experienced hand of producer Jack Cummings; six song numbers by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, who rank high in their field; a smattering of Bach, Delibes and Mozart, who were no slouches, either. There, also, is a story which is never important, but reliable enough for a musical.

All this sounds like a package of entertainment which is what "It Happened in Brooklyn" is. A tip-top package, unquestionably slated to

(*Continued on page 5*)

CSA Hits U.S. As Exhibitor Representative

Holds Bidding Bad, Not Just Inadequate Relief

Holding that divorcement is unnecessary, the Confederacy of Southern Associations on Friday declared in an appeal to the Supreme Court that the Department of Justice's opposition to competitive bidding does not constitute a representation of their interests, inasmuch as the government objects to the bidding system solely on the ground that it is an inadequate substitute for divorcement.

The CSA petition, asking the high tribunal to reverse the New York Federal District Court's denial of the association's right to intervene in the industry antitrust suit and to eliminate the bidding provision from the court's decree, was the 10th and last appeal placed on record. It came two

(*Continued on page 6*)

FWC Gains Seven In Pooling Breakup

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—Seventeen theatres in Southern and Northern California which Fox West Coast has operated in pooling arrangements will pass to individual control and the circuit will take over 100 per cent operation of 24 other houses on completion of current paper work.

The split-up, necessitated by the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Myers Anticipates 'Clean-Cut' Verdict

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Unlike the New York Federal District Court, the U. S. Supreme Court early next year will make a "clean-cut" decision in the industry anti-trust suit to either remove producer-distributors from "thin legal ice" by affirming that they do not have a monopoly

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Issue

"Fall Guy" is reviewed on page 5.

Personal Mention

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president and director of advertising-publicity-exploitation, left here at the weekend by plane for the Coast.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ, Kay Film Exchanges executives, have returned to Atlanta from visits in Washington and New York. They will depart shortly for Memphis and New Orleans.

•

PAULETTE GODDARD is due here from Hollywood today en route to London. She and her husband BURGESS MEREDITH will sail on the *Queen Elizabeth* March 7.

•

LOWELL CALVERT, sales representative for Hunt Stromberg Productions, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

PAULA GOULD, New York Capitol publicist, will return to her desk today following an attack of the grippe.

•

FRANK CAPRA has been awarded the Foreign Correspondents Association "Gold Globe" for 1946 for his direction of "It's a Wonderful Life."

•

HARRY YOUNG, Universal salesman, Columbus, is recuperating at his home there from injuries sustained in an automobile accident last month.

•

MOREY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram's general sales manager, left here at the weekend for a ten-day tour of Charlotte, Atlanta and Miami.

•

LIGE BRIEN, Eagle-Lion representative, will leave New York for Pittsburgh tomorrow accompanied by KENNY DELMAR.

•

R. E. MARTIN, head of Martin Theatres, Atlanta, will celebrate his 62nd birthday on Thursday.

•

CHARLES K. STEARN, Loew's assistant treasurer, will leave the Coast for New York on Wednesday.

•

WILLIAM G. BRENNER, head of M-G-M's field auditing staff, is in Los Angeles from New York.

'Blaze' Tradeshow Set

Paramount will tradeshow "Blaze of Noon" in all branch areas, New York excepted, on Friday, March 21. The picture, which was produced by Robert Fellows and directed by John Farrow, will be screened in New York at the Normandie Theater today. The film's world premiere will be held at the Rivoli, here, tomorrow.

Larkin Opens Office

Mark Larkin has opened his own public relations and publicity office in New York, to promote road-show engagements and special attractions for film companies, as well as public relations and publicity for advertising agencies and book publishers.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE return of United Artists ownership a week ago to two of the company's founders, Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin, together with their concord on future administrative policies, stirred considerable interest in the trade not the least of which is evident among independent producers and stars and directors who are contemplating companies of their own.

The abandonment of producer-partnerships and the corollary preferential contract terms granted to such producers sits well with those in the UA fold and others who would like to be there.

The producer-partnerships for more than 15 years past have been the source of internal differences in UA which reverberated throughout the company from high to low. It was a perennial question whether a producer-partner continuously engaged in production rated more administrative weight and financial return than the UA owners who were not continuously engaged in production.

That was at the root of the troubles which surrounded and marked the leave-takings of Samuel Goldwyn, Alexander Korda and, now, David Selznick. Without producer-partners, it would seem, UA will have ended that source of internal controversy which distracted and frequently unseated management and personnel far down the line.

UA's producer-partners automatically obtained preferential distribution contracts with the company, largely as an inducement for their affiliation. Such preferential contracts, however, often proved unprofitable to the company and almost always caused dissatisfaction among less favored producers. Many are known to have left the company for that reason.

The present status of UA ownership and the declared policies of that ownership result in an entirely different United Artists than heretofore. Many trade observers believe it is the answer to the problems which have plagued the company for years. They believe UA now faces its most promising business era in several decades.

• •

The *N. Y. Times* opposes the dangerous Wilson-Condon bill to revoke licenses of pictures advertised immorally partly on the ground that it poses the threat of general censorship. Yet other columns of the *Times* recommend the Dr. Ruth A. Inglis report, "Freedom of the Movies," which Terry Ramsaye diagnosed recently as a proposal for a "set of national censors to tell the picture business what to do."

According to the *Times'* record here, regulation is good or bad depending upon who wants to do it to whom.

The *Times* also remarks that the law is unnecessary; responsible papers police their ad columns. Still, publication of objectionable ads on "The Outlaw" inspired the bill.

• •

It is no secret throughout exhibition that the national independent exhibitor forum which was scheduled to be held in New York March 10 and 11 was called off because Allied States, without responding to Fred Wehrenberg's invitation to attend, indicated publicly it would not participate. Allied gave as its reason its belief that nothing could be accomplished until the Supreme Court has acted on appeals in the industry anti-trust suit, despite the fact that Wehrenberg clearly stated that the meeting was designed primarily for discussion of the proposal and the initiation of organizing details if it met with the approval of exhibitors.

In that way the forum would be prepared to function when the Supreme Court rulings were in. The best it can do now is to make its belated start perhaps a year from now, if ever.

Exhibitors and distributors what sat through the futile United Motion Picture Industry conferences in 1942 predicted this outcome for the forum proposal. They were accused of being overly cynical. Obviously, they were merely being realistic.

Industry experience in the promotion of conciliation machinery and cooperative effort has been so consistently discouraging over the years that it has now reached a point at which the very men who are best equipped to initiate and lead constructive movements of the kind have begun to view them as destined for failure and participation in them to be a complete waste of time.

It is regrettable but nonetheless a fact that the good intentions of so many can be negated by so few.

Newsreel Parade

ERIC JOHNSTON presenting his plan for industrial peace is covered by all current newsreels. Other happenings spotlighted are the Buffalo teachers' strike, Arctic and Antarctic aviation activities, the Indo-China war and a wide variety of sports contests. Full synopses follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 53—B-29 crew rescued in Greenland. Buffalo teachers strike for higher pay. Human tragedy and ruin in Indo-China war. Washington: Eric Johnston presents plan for industrial peace. Los Angeles golf tourney. Motorcycling thrills. Basketball: Notre Dame vs. New York University.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 251—Buffalo: Nation's biggest teachers strike. War-torn Indo-China. Rescue of airmen in Arctic and Antarctic. Eric Johnston urges labor plan. Coyote hunt in Idaho. Florida motor-bike races. Water-skiing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 54—King George meets King Neptune. Teachers' unrest reaches climax in Buffalo. Eric Johnston reports on industrial relations. Indo-China war. Sports: basketball, motorcycling, water-skiing.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 56—Strike shuts Buffalo schools. French repel Indo-Chinese. Eric Johnston asks for labor peace. Chile dog-club holds show. Air rescue of lost Byrd fliers. Riggs-Budge tennis tourney.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 17—French troops in Indo-China fighting. Railroad head Robert R. Young urges reforms and points way toward improvement. Eric Johnston urges plan for industrial labor peace. Lion cub "quads" born. Trained monkey goes through paces in Memphis. World's golf championship game in San Diego.

Stoltz Resigns PRC Sales Reissue Post

Arnold T. Stoltz, who has been with Producers Releasing Corp. from the time of the company's formation more than two years ago, and who recently moved up from national director of advertising-publicity to sales manager in charge of PRC's Edward Small reissues, resigned from the company at the weekend. His resignation will become effective in two weeks, or sooner, depending upon the development of Stoltz' plans.

Stoltz, 1941 winner of the Quigley silver showmanship award, was at one time publicity director and manager of Warner and Loew theatres. In 1943 he became exploitation manager of United Artists.

Schaefer's Enterprise Office Opens Today

George J. Schaefer, newly elected vice-president in charge of distribution for Enterprise, is due here from the Coast today to establish the company's New York office, which, for the time being at least, will occupy the headquarters of George J. Schaefer Associates, industry financing firm.

Upon Schaefer's arrival, he is expected to finalize a deal for the acquisition of approximately 300 features made by Universal prior to 1938. Reissuance of them will be through a new company to be formed by George J. Schaefer, Jr., and John J. Cahill, it is understood.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

THIS IS IT!

The most exciting picture ever made!

"Odd Man Out"

[*Two Cities-Universal*] — Dramatic Atom Bomb

THE scene is an unidentified city in Northern Ireland, no doubt Belfast. The time is during the war; the story, an incident in the activities of the Irish Republican Army. The action starts at four o'clock and ends at midnight. The result, brilliantly produced and directed by Carol Reed, is the unrelenting and uncompromising drama of a manhunt in what is one of the few outstanding examples of its type and a motion picture which has substantial possibilities of finding ultimate place among the screen's greats.

First, the dramatic outline: James Mason, out of prison and ill, is chief in his city of the illegal organization. Funds are required. A mill is robbed. In the getaway, the group escapes but Mason kills a mill manager who, in turn, badly injures Mason whose companions recoup him temporarily and thereafter lose him when he falls out of the escape car. The remainder of the film deals with the man hunt and Mason's adventures on his road to death. Two of his men are cut down outside the house of an informer. Another, seeking Mason and finding him, draws off the police and is captured, but not before Mason gets a temporary breather.

Hundreds of police are on the trail. The pursued man hides in alleys,

(Continued on page 8)

Please turn page-- Read every word of this review.....

"Odd Man Out"

(*Continued from page* 1)

shrinks into protective, dark corners, endeavors to harbor his waning strength in a horse-driven cab, falls in the rain and mud and snow, makes his way to the haven of a saloon. He is picked up by an underworld character who is prepared to turn him over to police or friends, depending upon the greater reward, gets sorely needed aid from a medical student, stumbles out to meet Kathleen Ryan, who loves him and has been appealing to W. G. Fay, the parish priest, for information and assistance. In the final few minutes, the girl and Mason meet. Escape cut off, she fires two shots at the police advancing across a snow-covered square. In the returning fusilade, and as she had planned, both are killed.

Here are the essentials of taut and vigorous drama, compounded with exacting expertness in the screen play by R. C. Sheriff and R. L. Green, from a novel by another Green— F. J. But the bigger job was vested in Reed. To bring to life the realistic relentlessness of the hunt, to probe and to find the soul-searching required for utter conviction, to develop the stark mood, to unfold and then to catch the uncertainities and the cross-purposes of the good and the less-than-good characters parading the screen—these are among the contributions of Reed's undeniable talents as a director. His work is magnificent.

Mason is completely convincing and touching as the illegal resistance fighter whose inner conflict finds him unable to determine if the processes of parliamentary law ought not give way to violence. Miss Ryan, whose first film this is, immediately establishes her competency as an actress of depth and professional worth. Other players, drawn principally from the ranks of Dublin's famed Abbey Playhouse, are perfectly etched in their realism. Shading them for comparative values, the two who stand above the others are F. J. McCormick, as Shell, and Fay as Father Tom. Robert Newton, as a half-mad artist, and Fay Compton, in a minor role, are invaluable assets of a noted cast.

Commercially, "Odd Man Out" has Mason whose vogue in this country is on the upbeat. This film will enhance his popularity, but the measure of the attraction's ticket-selling potential perhaps is best drawn by a throwback to "The Informer", with which this bears many resemblances.

First reviewed from London in MOTION PICTURE DAILY of Jan. 30, Peter Burnup wrote: "This may well be rated in years to come among the screen's choicest masterpieces". His appraisal could prove correct.

Tinkering with an end product of such distinguished values, moreover, may be foolhardy yet the opinion of this impressed reviewer is that the film would be better served in less length. As it stands, on the other hand, "Odd Man Out" is a drama-on-film which will not be quickly forgotten.

Running time, 113 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

It will be coming to you soon, backed by a tremendous newspaper, magazine and radio advance campaign.

Universal International

Lohrenz's District Wins 'Sears Drive'

United Artists' Midwest district, headed by Rud Lohrenz, has won first prize in the "Grad Sears Gold Cup Sales Drive" on over-all performance, it was announced at the weekend by J. J. Unger, general sales manager. The drive started in July.

Other winning district managers are: W. E. Callaway, West; Jack Fi[illegible] New York; Moe Dudelson, [illegible]al; Fred M. Jack, South.

Branch honors were taken by Chicago, headed by Sid Rose, with Winnipeg, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City and Atlanta landing in the first five, respectively. Other prize-winning branches included Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, New Orleans, New Haven, Vancouver and St. Louis.

Winning salesmen who will receive awards for outstanding performances include G. B. Davis, Atlanta; T. R. Barber, Dallas; W. T. Keith, New Orleans; Nat Ross and Irving Mendelsohn, Boston; Dave Leff, Buffalo; Lou Geiger, Cleveland; R. J. Forman, Detroit; Sam Rifkin, New York; William Scott, Pittsburgh; Harold Ross, Washington; W. R. Riddle, Denver; M. M. Krueger, Indianapolis; John Graham, Kansas City; Jack Drum, Los Angeles; Moe Provencher, Milwaukee; E. J. Stoller, Minneapolis, C. F. Reese, Omaha and Jack O'Bryan, Seattle.

Warner Men Discuss Auction Selling

Auction selling as specified under the decree was the chief topic at Friday's closing session of the two-day Warner district sales managers' meeting conducted by Ben Kalmenson, vice-president and general sales manager, at the home office.

Howard Levinson, member of the legal staff representing distribution, outlined procedure to be followed in complying with the decree edict. Other new stipulations in sales methods also were taken up, following the previous day's discussion of clearance.

An outline of product scheduled for release during the spring and summer was the final business of the Friday afternoon session.

WB Promotes Fletcher

Herbert E. Fletcher, formerly manager of the Warner Bros. branch office in Cali, Colombia, and before that in Trinidad, has been appointed manager for Peru by Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner International. He succeeds James E. Pepper, resigned. A new manager for Cali will be announced later by Cohen, who will leave here for South America on Wednesday.

Two More WB Showings

Two additional tradeshowings in March have been set by Warner Brothers, giving the company three national screenings for exhibitors this month. "Stallion Road" is set for March 17, "Love and Learn," March 24, and "The Two Mrs. Carrolls," March 31.

General Precision Dividend

Directors of General Precision Equipment Corp. has declared a dividend of 25 cents per share on the company's capital stock, payable March 25 to stockholders of record on March 10.

"It Happened in Brooklyn"

(*Continued from page* 1)

send audiences away glad they came and to convince theatremen they had bought themselves an attraction.

Sinatra is the shy, boyish "GI" from Brooklyn. The war over, he is on his way home. There, he meets Miss Grayson, singing teacher for a bunch of school kids and disappointed in her failure to click as an an operatic vocalist. Sinatra and the girl like one another, sort of; but the real romance develops when Lawford, also shy, comes over from England to learn something of the practicalities of life, and girls, in the distinctive atmosphere of Brooklyn under Sinatra's tutelage. Hovering over all three, like a mother chick, is Durante, school janitor. He meets all impasses, solves all problems and even finally sets Sinatra on his true road to romance with Gloria Grahame, Army nurse first met in London.

This pleasant shadow of a story is not what is particularly vital. What is vital is the handling of the characters and their response, the many heart-warming twists and comedy slants which come out of John McGowan's original, from which Isobel Lennart prepared the script for Whorf to implement thereafter.

For instance, when Sinatra and Durante go into "The Song's Gotta Come from the Heart" as a duet, it is a high point. When Lawford throws the switch from classical to jazz and sings "Whose Baby Are You?" it is another sequence which scores. When Sinatra and Miss Grayson do an aria from "Don Giovanni" with Lawford hitting the ivories in an Italian restaurant, there another ten-strike. In fact, the mood is so genial throughout and the atmosphere so infectious that a good time is practically assured all comers.

Running time, 103 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set

RED KANN

"Fall Guy"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, March 2

BASED on Cornell Woolrich's story called "Cocaine," this is the first to be produced in sequel to the revision of the Production Code in such a way as to permit the presentation of drug addiction on the screen, and it presumably rates special consideration in the trade. The news in this connection is that it does deal with the use of drugs (referred to in dialogue both as "drugs" and as "narcotics") and therefore does offer an exhibitor disposed to exploit it on this ground an opportunity to do so, but will not offer his audiences the type of thing that sort of exploitation would suggest. In point of fact, nothing has been done with the "dope" element which could not have been done with drunkenness, amnesia, or even an accidental bump on the head, and possibly a good deal more clearly and convincingly. To ballyhoo the picture as an "expose" or anything like that is to court customer complaint.

On the other hand, it's a quite tense little melodrama that Producer Walter M. Mirisch and Director Reginald Le Borg put together from Jerry Warner's screenplay, and the players assembled for the project—Clifford Penn, Robert Armstrong, Teala Loring, Elisha Cook, Jr., Douglas Fowley and others—do pretty well with it. Penn portrays a young man who goes to an apartment party where drinking is being done, finds himself later in a police station ward being questioned about blood on his hands and a bloody knife, escapes, and then manages to trace forgotten events with the aid of a police officer who risks his job to help him do so. It's established that the boy has been drugged, and that a murder has been committed by his sweetheart's guardian, a drug addict, who has been secretly in love with the girl and has sought to eliminate the boy by framing him for the murder. It's pretty well contrived, but could have been done more coherently if the dialogue pertaining to the drugging had been outright language concerning liquor (the boy is shown as an habitual drunk) instead of studiously indirect reference to the quite unnecessarily introduced contraband.

Running time, 64 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, February 22.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Republic Sales Meet Opening on Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.—James R. Grainger, Republic executive vice-president in charge of sales and distribution, and Edward L. Walton, assistant general sales manager, are here for a three-day sales conference which begins tomorrow.

They made the trip from Los Angeles with Western district sales manager Earl R. Collins, and the trio is meeting with S. C. Martenstein, San Francisco branch manager, and others. At the close of the meeting, Grainger and Walton will return to the Studio, and will leave for New York at the end of the week.

Classics Names Hankin

Sol Hankin has been named branch manager of Film Classics' recently-acquired branch in St. Louis, by Sam Wheeler, sales manager.

Century Men Meet At Astor Tomorrow

Century Theatres' department heads, district managers and theatre managers will hold the first in a planned series of open forums at the Hotel Astor here tomorrow. The session will hear any questions, suggestions or complaints, in an effort to increase the organization's efficiency.

Century vice-president Fred J. Schwartz will preside.

Girl Scout Trailer

Many theatres have agreed to run a Girl Scout 35th anniversary trailer, reports Leon L. Bamberger of RKO-Radio, who is the industry's representative on the national public relations committee of the Scouts. The one-minute short featuring a message by Margaret O'Brien, will be available March 12 through National Screen Service.

Film Editors' Union Wins 15-20% Boosts

Film editors, assistant editors and apprentices at Columbia, M-G-M International, March of Time and Pathescope under new contracts concluded between the companies and the Motion Picture Film Editors, Local No. 771, IATSE, have been awarded wage increases of 15 and 20 per cent, according to Charles Wolfe, the local's business agent. The Columbia pact, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1946, is the first signed between the company and the union.

Setting a 40-hour week at Columbia and Pathescope and a 37½-hour week at March of Time, the contracts, which cover an estimated 50 employes, provide 15 per cent wage boosts for editors and assistant editors, bringing their respective weekly wages to $120.75 and $60.38, while editing room assistants are given a 20 per cent increase, to $42.00 a week, Wolfe declared. M-G-M International's synchronization editors are receiving $97.75 a week, with assistant editors and apprentices granted scales similar to those provided in contracts with the other companies, he added.

Retroactivity of the Pathescope and March of Time agreements is to Jan. 1, 1947, and of the M-G-M International pact to Nov. 15, 1946.

Solon Presses for Survey

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Congressman Robert J. Twyman of Illinois has urged Congress to approve the sweeping nationwide census of business proposed last year by the Department of Commerce. The study would embrace all businesses, including films.

Records Seizure

(*Continued from page* 1)

last month by Judge McVicar in the action brought some time ago by Dattola and 23 other exhibitor plaintiffs in this area. Distributors have been inspecting the theatre records of the 23 for the purpose of over 140 counterclaims filed by the companies in their action alleging damages from fraudulent percentage returns.

Still pending is a motion made last week by the distributors to have Dattalo held for contempt of court for failure to produce for inspection certain records in accordance with previous orders of the court. While awaiting determination of this motion, the court issued the order directing the marshal to seize and impound the records in Dattola's office.

According to the papers filed by the distributors in support of their motion, Dattalo kept certain theatre records in a metal filing cabinet, which records were not produced for their inspection, as directed by the court in previous orders, the existence as well as the keeping of certain of them allegedly having been denied by Dattalo in an affidavit previously submitted by him to the court on an earlier motion.

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FEATURES, WESTERNS, COMEDIES and SHORTS

Marker Resigns as D. of J. Video Chief

Joseph B. Marker, special attorney for the Department of Justice's New York anti-trust division, who has been in charge of the Government's television anti-trust case since it was started against Paramount, General Precision Equipment, Television Productions, Inc., Scophony Corp. of America, Scophony Ltd., and others announced on Friday that he has resigned from the Department to return to private law practice.

With Marker's resignation went his agreement to make his services available to the anti-trust division in the event that negotiations now going on in Washington for a settlement of the suit prove fruitless. Currently, also, the Government is appealing in the U. S. Supreme Court the dismissal of Scophony Ltd. as a defendant on jurisdictional grounds.

Sees National Video

SCHENECTADY, March 2.—Creation of a Coast-to-Coast television network is "only a few years away," in the opinion of Niles Trammell, president of National Broadcasting.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

opposition to the system and criticism by some exhibitor organizations.

As reported on Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, movement for extending arbitration on a voluntary basis, outside the jurisdiction of the court, was thwarted by cancellation of the March 10-11 New York meeting which had been called for considering that subject along with the formation of a motion picture forum. Should all or most of the tribunals be kept going with new cases, the system might be held together long enough to give a possible new voluntary movement time enough to succeed.

In the new Cleveland complaint, against M-G-M, R. D. Stone operator of the Idol Theatre at Lodi, O., seeks correction of a licensing agreement to conform to the clearances offered by other distributors, namely seven days after Akron and availability 30 days after territorial or national release date. Asserting that the M-G-M clearance is unreasonable, Stone says that the Idol is subject to clearance after first run in Ashland and 35 days after Mansfield, both Ohio. Schine's Palace, Ashland and Medina theatres are named as interested parties.

Bringing the number of cases now before the New York tribunal to three, the Newtown Theatre Corp. in its complaint seeks complete elimination of the seven-day clearance to which its Newtown Theatre, Elmhurst, Queens, is subject in favor of the Granada. Newtown Corp. maintains that the two theatres are not in competition, or in substantial enough competition to warrant seven days' clearance, since they are in different neighborhoods.

Columbia Profits

(*Continued from page* 1)

of common stock after preferred stock dividends, calculated on the increased amount of common which was outstanding on Dec. 28, 1946, are: $2.25 for the 1946 period; $1.92 for the 1945 period. Shares outstanding on Dec. 28, 1946 totaled 622,782; on Dec. 29, 1945, 595,447.

Govt. Film Division May Win Extension

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Support by exhibitor organizations and the Motion Picture Association may make possible continuation of the film division of the Office of Government Reports.

With an operating expense of slightly under $50,000 per year, the OGR film unit has been assigned to handle all Government film matters, thus saving the industry considerable confusion by receiving overlapping and impossible requests.

The American Theatres Association may be represented at closed hearings of the House Appropriations Committee when the OGR appropriation is heard. It is also believed that Eric Johnston or another MPA representative will be asked to appear.

Myers Anticipates

(*Continued from page* 1)

of exhibition or, on the other hand, placing them in an "icy bath" of theatre divorcement, Abram F. Myers, Allied chairman and general counsel, predicts.

Drawing his conclusion from the Government's appeal and those filed by Columbia, United Artists and Universal (prior to a study of the theatre-owning defendants' appeal filed last week), Myers says:

"The divorcement issue has been dished up in so many ways that the high court cannot fairly escape making a clean-cut decision." He notes that 25 of the Government's assignments of error are against the District Court's finding that no monopoly of exhibition exists, that six are against failure to grant divorcement, three seek a ban on cross-licensing and five strike at the lower court's conclusions relating to clearance.

"The non-theatre-owning defendants are making the competitive bidding system the chief targets of their appeals, while the Department of Justice snipes at bidding from so many angles as to leave it thoroughly discredited," Myers adds.

FWC Gains Seven

(*Continued from page* 1)

New York Federal court decree in the industry anti-trust suit, will be completed before July 1.

The policy inaugurated in the disposition of these pooling interests will provide the pattern for similar arrangements throughout the National Theatres setup, a circuit spokesman said.

Theatres involved in the present rearrangement are located in Los Angeles, Inglewood, South Pasadena, Monrovia, Long Beach, San Diego, Riverside, Bakersfield, San Francisco and Hanford.

Admission Taxes

(*Continued from page* 1)

based on motion picture admission taxes.

Federal admission tax receipts during January, representing collections for the preceding month, amounted to $37,054,760, compared with $33,741,349 in the same period of the previous year. Between 80 and 90 per cent of these figures also represent taxes on motion picture admissions.

Okla. Bill Would Widen Local Taxes

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 2.—State Senators Robert Burns of Oklahoma City and Arthur Price of Tulsa have introduced a bill permitting Oklahoma cities to levy additional taxes including levies on amusements.

Exhibitors are expected to organize a fight against it.

Chevalier to be Welcomed

Maurice Chevalier will be welcomed on his return to the U. S. from Paris, by the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, it is announced by President Rutgers Neilson, president. He will be its guest at a luncheon at the Town Hall Club on Thursday.

CSA Hits U.S.

(*Continued from page* 1)

days in advance of the deadline for filing.

Without competition bidding, the CSA contends, the other directions of the court "are fully adequate to terminate the restraints of commerce found to be unlawful." The bidding system, moreover, would cause the petitioners "irreparable damage," the appeal states.

Such damage, according to CSA, would spring from several causes:

The larger theatres would outbid the independents operating smaller theatres, making the latter mediocre houses, exhibiting on a second and subsequent run basis.

The theatre-owning defendants, permitted to continue exhibiting features produced by them, may, if they produce enough, never have to enter the competitive market.

The definition of a competitive area is so vague that it may result in the elimination of all clearances.

The determination of "the highest responsible bidder, having a theatre of a size, location and equipment adequate to yield a reasonable return" furnishes no practical measure by which a defendant may properly determine to which exhibitor to award a feature.

The decreed method of licensing will increase admission prices through the increase in film rentals.

The method overlooks such established business considerations as honesty, integrity, experience, good will and reputation.

The method forbids and prevents necessary post-exhibition adjustments.

Material losses would result from uncertainty as to the result of bids.

An exhibitor operating two theatres equal in seating capacity to one larger theatre cannot successfully bid against such a house, because the decree provides that each license must be taken theatre by theatre.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The Department of Justice will not ask for a stay of the effective date of competitive bidding beyond July 1, the date set by the New York court, despite the fact that the bidding system is criticized by the Department in its appeal to the Supreme Court, according to Robert L. Wright, assistant to the Attorney General.

Wright said the Department has no reason to request a stay until the Supreme Court has acted on appeals. Indications are the Department is less concerned with bidding as an undesirable film licensing method than as an unsatisfactory substitute for divorcement.

THESE ARE
THE WORLD'S NEEDIEST WAR ORPHANS! THEY NEED YOU NOW!
The Motion Picture Industry has accepted the humane privilege of saving, through adoption, 15,000 orphans of war-ravaged Greece.
$80 will provide for a war orphan and will sustain and clothe the child for one year.
ALL motion picture industry personnel—in theatres, in home-offices, in branch film distribution offices and in Hollywood studios are urgently invited to form "$80 SAVES A GREEK WAR ORPHAN" Clubs and thus adopt one or more GREEK WAR ORPHANS for one year.
NO THEATRE COLLECTIONS ARE REQUESTED . . . although outside contributions are desired. Local merchants and suppliers to this industry may participate with generous contributions to YOUR CLUB.
FORM YOUR CLUBS NOW! START COLLECTING NOW!
$80 SAVES AN ORPHAN
Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to: GREEK WAR ORPHANS FUND and mail to Treasurer, Greek War Orphans Fund, Room 408, Paramount Building, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y. Or your Exchange Area Chairman.
MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY'S APPEAL FOR THE WAR ORPHANS OF GREECE
in honor of SPYROS P. SKOURAS—March 8th to April 8th

"COLD WAVE CHILLS B'WAY GROSSES BUT "BEDELIA" SMASH . . ."

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"'BEDELIA' is better than 'LAURA'!"

On Broadway and Main Street——"BEDELIA" is BOX OFFICE!

Ed Emanuel says, of the Harrisburg and Reading (Pa.) Twin World Premieres, "Proves beyond doubt that 'BEDELIA' will do outstanding business!"

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 43 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1947 TEN CENTS

Pay to Meet Living Cost Asked by 'IA'

Seeks 6-Month Bonuses Under Studio Pacts

Notice has been served on Hollywood producers that all IATSE studio workers expect to receive bonuses equal to the increase in living costs which occurred between July and December of last year, Richard F. Walsh, "IA" international president, said here yesterday.

The notice was given under authority of a reopening clause in contracts negotiated since an interim agreement was entered into last July, Walsh explained. Under terms of that settlement, the bonuses were to be granted if costs advanced more than five per cent during the last half of the year.

Preliminary plans for the new talks were made by Walsh during his recent visit to the Coast, and the negotiations now are expected to be

(*Continued on page 9*)

Wage Demands Seen Costing 13 Millions

HOLLYWOOD, March 3.—Studio labor costs for 1947 will rise approximately $13,500,000 if all unions petitioning for cost-of-living increases are successful in obtaining increases proportionate to the 11.17 per cent boost granted the Screen Extras' Guild last week.

The SEG, the only Hollywood union whose contract outrightly spe-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Johnston Will Ask For a Strike Ban

WASHINGTON, March 3. — Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, will appear before the House Labor and Education Committee tomorrow to urge a permanent ban on jurisdictional strikes.

He is expected to point out that labor unions had an adequate warning to clean house, but obviously refused to do so. Therefore, Johnston will urge the committee to ban internal disputes and boycotts. Several days ago Johnston warned that if labor did not accept its responsibilities and eliminate jurisdictional disputes such as the Hollywood strike, it would be the duty of Congress to step in and create accord by regulation.

20th Is Accepting Product Bids in Competitive Areas

MINNEAPOLIS, March 3.—Film-bidding has already been effected by 20th Century-Fox in competitive situations in some territories, following similar action taken by other companies, although the New York Federal Court decree does not make the bidding system binding until July 1; 20th-Fox is acting at this time to iron-out "wrinkles" that might arise.

Beyond the acknowledgment that some bids have been received spokesmen for the local 20th-Fox branch said that the bids "under consideration and will be acted upon in accordance with terms of the decree."

Earlier, M. A. Levy, 20th-Fox Prairie district manager, said theatres in the Minneapolis zone which had requested the right to bid for product had been advised that such bids were now being accepted. He said the prod-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Zorn Hits MPA on Public Relations

PEORIA, Ill., March 3.—Edward G. Zorn, Pontiac exhibitor and president of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois, today blasted the Motion Picture Association, for failing in what he termed its main task and purpose, to better public relations.

Zorn, speaking at a Central Illinois meeting of the United Theatre Owners, at the Pere Marquette Hotel

(*Continued on page 9*)

See No Tax Relief Before July, 1949

Hollywood, March 3.—Wartime admission tax rates will not be lowered until probably July 1, 1949, according to the House and Senate conference committee which approved indefinite continuation of present excise rates on Saturday.

The present 20 per cent rate will be necessary in the light of GOP efforts to reduce the budget and at the same time pay part of the national debt, the committee said. Taxes on some fur coats and on travel outside the U. S. were revised partially or eliminated in the re-drafting of the bill in committee.

Save 2 U. S. Film Sections

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Republican leaders in Congress have indicated that they will not slash two important film functions of the Government, the commercial policy division of the State Department and the Commerce Department trade information unit.

Inasmuch as neither unit has a high appropriation and neither engages in propaganda or private business, the GOP will approve their continuation.

The Commerce section, headed by Nathan D. Golden for 25 years, has a fund request of less than $25,000 per year. Golden operates under the

(*Continued on page 9*)

Showmanship Need Ahead Cited at 'Awards' Function

Calling for a return to "old fashioned showmanship" as a means of keeping business on a comfortable level after the "past few lush years," Sol A. Schwartz, vice-president in charge of theatres for RKO Service Corp., yesterday cited the annual Quigley Publications' Showmanship Awards as the industry's "best medium through which managers have an opportunity to be heard and to receive deserved recognition for outstanding talent in the field of advertising and exploitation."

Schwartz addressed approximately 80 distribution, advertising and exhibition executives at a luncheon in

(*Continued on page 8*)

Chicago Interests Form Film Company

CHICAGO, March 3.—With Marshall Grant, former Universal producer-director, as president; William D. Saltiel, head of the Chicago Opera Company, as board chairman, and Herbert Lyon, formerly in charge of publicity for the Balaban and Katz television station WBKB, as publicity director, Marshall Grant Pictures, Inc., has been formed here by a group of Chicago businessmen who have in-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Attorneys on Tour in Survey Of Clearance

Para., Warners, Others Checking Pact Terms

Distribution companies, charged by the New York Federal District Court with the burden of proof of "reasonable" clearance under the decree in the industry anti-trust suit, have begun sending home office attorneys into the field to review clearances in consultation with division and district managers.

Paramount, first company to confirm taking this step, has assigned attorneys Richard Morgan, Thomas Gibbons, Sam Boverman and Morton Lane to the field duty. Morgan is on hand for assignment following his return over the weekend from an extended stay on the Coast.

Warner Brothers are understood to be following a similar policy, with attorney Howard Levinson now in

(*Continued on page 8*)

U.S. Explains Stand On Arbitration

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Justice Department opposition to arbitration is motivated by a fear that such a system would be used to place the burden of final decree enforcement upon the exhibitor, it was said here today.

The Department has no opposition

(*Continued on page 8*)

20th Buys Into Nine M-G-M Music Firms

Twentieth Century-Fox has acquired a substantial interest in the stock of M-G-M Robbins Music Corp., and eight affiliates, according to an announcement made here yesterday by Charles C. Moskowitz, president of

(*Continued on page 9*)

In This Issue

"Blaze of Noon" and "Undercover Maisie" are reviewed on page 10.

Key city grosses are given on the same page.

CSU Head Shot at And Beaten in Calif.

HOLLYWOOD, March 3.—Police today were investigating the abduction and shooting of Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the striking Conference of Studio Unions, who was found bound at a roadside near Freeman's Junction, 135 miles from Los Angeles, late last night. He was taken to Ridgecrest Hospital where he is being treated for head injuries.

Sorrell, whose life was threatened in Oct., 1945, when four shots were fired at him as he sat in his car near his Glendale home, said that three men, one wearing a police uniform, seized him as he was returning from taking his wife to church.

The labor leader, who will remain in the hospital for several days, added that his assailants fired three shots at him after dragging him into the desert and departed, believing him dead.

Carl Head, taking charge of the CSU in Sorrell's absence, said, "The violence of last night is a thing to be laid directly at the door of the conspiracy between the producers and racketeer labor leaders in Hollywood."

Hollywood Labor Up For Investigation

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Rep. Richard Nixon (Cal.) will make an investigation of labor discord in Hollywood and also will conduct a study for the House Un-American Activities Committee on alleged Communist activities there.

A member of the labor committee, he will investigate the current studio jurisdictional strike and attempt to find its causes. He will conduct the un-American probe with the assistance of a committee investigator.

Hobbs Will Manage Republic Branch

ATLANTA, March 3.—James Hobbs, formerly with Universal in Charlotte and Oklahoma City, has been appointed local branch manager of Republic Pictures by Merritt Davis, Southern district manager. He replaces Sid Reams who has resigned.

UK Power Grants Exclude Theatres

London, March 3.—Despite the Government's restoration of electric power to all industries today, theatre and office building restrictions will continue, and domestic consumers still must conserve electricity five hours a day.

The new order authorizes full production for all industries, including the film industry, except theatres. However, the shut-down of laboratories during the coal crisis resulted in a severe raw-stock shortage here, and producers will have to move cautiously if yearly requirements of all are to be met.

Personal Mention

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK, executive head of production for 20th Century-Fox, arrived here yesterday from the Coast accompanied by FRED METZLER, studio treasurer. SCHENCK will leave here soon for a Florida vacation.

•

BERNARD LEWIS will leave for Hollywood today to begin his new job as executive assistant to HAL HORNE, vice-president in charge of production for Story Productions, Inc.

•

JACK SIMONS has replaced ARNOLD LEAPARD as manager of the Center Theatre, Hartford. The latter has been transferred by the Continental Circuit to Durham, N. C.

•

WADE M. CARR, Manley, Inc., district manager, Cleveland, suffered a broken leg and his wife was killed in a recent automobile accident near Cincinnati.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, has returned to New York from a South American tour.

•

SID KRAMER, assistant to HARRY MICHAELSON, RKO Radio short subjects sales manager, has arrived in Hollywood from New York.

•

BUCKY HARRIS has succeeded JACK QUIRK as RKO Radio's New Haven field exploiteer. The latter has been transferred to New Orleans.

•

ARTHUR W. KELLY, president of General Motion Picture Corp., is due here from England tomorrow on the *Queen Elizabeth*.

•

WILLIAM K. SAXTON, Baltimore city manager for Loew Theatres, will be host to TOM DRAKE, M-G-M star, at a reception here today.

•

ERNEST EMERLING, Loew's publicity-advertising manager, has been visiting Atlanta from New York.

•

WILLIAM N. SKIRBALL, of the Skirball circuit, is in Cleveland from the Coast.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M director of exhibitor relations, returned here from Florida yesterday.

•

EDWARD C. RAFTERY, president of United Artists, has returned here from Pittsburgh.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation head, will leave here today for Philadelphia.

•

HARRY PAUL, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply Co., has returned to Atlanta from Tampa.

•

NATE B. SPINGOLD, Columbia executive, has left New York for a Florida vacation.

•

DAVID O. SELZNICK is en route here from Hollywood by train.

NATE BLUMBERG, Universal president, has arrived in New York from the Coast, accompanied by MRS. BLUMBERG and their daughter and son-in-law, MR. and MRS. STAN MEYER.

•

MAURICE A. BERGMAN, Universal-Inaternational Eastern advertising-publicity director, returned to his desk here yesterday following recuperation from a chipped hip bone sustained several weeks ago while riding horseback in San Francisco.

•

ROBERT WEITMAN, managing director of the New York Paramount Theatre, who is en route to Phoenix by train, will be met there by LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount circuit general manager, who will leave here by plane tomorrow.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M Southern sales manager; BURTUS BISHOP, JR., district manager, and LEONARD J. HIRSCH, home office sales assistant, are in Kansas City from where they will depart for Oklahoma City on Friday.

•

BERNARD MACK, secretary of the Filmack Trailer Corp., and son of president IRVING MACK, was married in Chicago on March 1 to DOROTHEA FEIN of New York. The couple will honeymoon in Florida.

•

GEORGE J. SCHAEFER, Enterprise distribution vice-president, has been delayed by bad weather while flying here from the Coast. He is expected to arrive today.

•

R. J. O'DONNELL, head of Interstate Circuit, Dallas, was host to FRANK CAPRA and JAMES STEWART at a reception in the Hotel Adolphus there yesterday.

•

MAURICE GRAD, Columbia's short subject sales manager, left New York yesterday for a 10-day tour of Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Washington.

•

A. A. WARD, Altec Lansing vice-president, and JOHN K. HILLIARD, chief engineer, have arrived in New York from the Coast for a week's stay.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, is due to return to New York from the Coast on March 15.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal-International Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave New York today for Jacksonville, Fla.

•

CHARLES E. KESSNICH, Southern M-G-M district manager, returned to Atlanta yesterday from Charlotte.

•

NICHOLAS SCHENCK, president of Loew's, Inc., will leave Hollywood today for New York.

•

MORTON LANE of the Paramount home office legal department, is in Chicago from New York.

'High Tide' to Monogram

HOLLYWOOD, March 3. — Jack Wrathers' second production, "High Tide," will be released by Monogram.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN 1st N.Y. Showing!
'MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'
DENNIS O'KEEFE
IN PERSON
MAX BAER AND SLAPSY MAXIE ROSENBLOOM

Paramount presents Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray in "Suddenly It's Spring"
In Person JOHNNY LONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA JOAN EDWARDS LEWIS & VAN BUDDY LESTER
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

He was made for ACTION! She was made for LOVE!
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Let's Be Candid about Katie!!!*

NOTE! this is a reproduction of one of the regular national magazine ads in RKO's big new DOUBLE-PLAY seat-selling smash!

A New Murder Mystery
THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
The Farmer's Daughter
LITTLE DID LOVELY KATRIN HOLSTROM GUESS WHEN LEAVING HER FATHER'S FARM ...THAT SHE WOULD BECOME FAMOUS OVER NIGHT...AND REALIZE HER WILDEST ROMANTIC DREAMS!
WHILE ON HER WAY TO CAPITOL CITY, WITH A PAINTER NAMED ADOLPH, HER SAVINGS WERE SPENT ON DAMAGES WHEN ADOLPH TURNED "WOLF" AND HIS JEEP TURNED TURTLE!
UNDAUNTED, KATIE (LORETTA YOUNG) TAKES A TEMPORARY JOB IN THE MORLEY HOUSEHOLD. AND YOUNG CONGRESSMAN GLENN MORLEY (JOSEPH COTTEN) TAKES A PERMANENT HOLD ON HER HEART. GLENN'S MOTHER (ETHEL BARRYMORE), SLYLY LOOKS ON.
SOON AFTER, KATIE FISHES GLENN OUT OF THE RIVER AND GIVES HIM A MASSAGE THAT HAS CLANCY (CHAS. BICKFORD) POP-EYED--AND GLENN'S GIRL FRIEND GREEN-EYED!
JUST WHEN LOVE SEEMS ABOUT TO BLOOM KATIE AND GLENN QUARREL OVER THE PARTY'S CHOICE OF FINLEY, A WARD-HEELER AS GLENN'S RUNNING MATE. POLITICALLY, KATIE'S OUT OF THIS WORLD. ROMANTICALLY, SHE'S OUT ON A LIMB!
AND WHEN KATIE, "THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER" SAYS HER PIECE, GLENN AND MA MORLEY ARE VERY RED-FACED
KATIE FOR
ACCLAIMED BY PUBLIC, PRESS AND RADIO--- AN OVERNIGHT POLITICAL SENSATION--- KATIE IS DRAFTED BY THE OPPOSITION TO RUN AGAINST FINLEY FOR CONGRESS!
FINLEY
KATIE
KATIE'S CHANCES ZOOM, WHILE GLENN AND THE PARTY GLOOM
SUDDENLY, ADOLPH THE PAINTER POPS UP WITH A DISTORTED STORY ABOUT KATIE'S OVERNIGHT STAY WITH HIM AT A TOURIST CAMP. GLENN THREATENS TO BOLT THE PARTY IF THE LIE IS PUBLISHED SO...
Capitol City Times
KATIE, "THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER," VANISHES AS PAINTER TELLS ALL! ELECTION 2 DAYS OFF!
Glenn Morley Bolts Party!
WHILE GLENN TRAILS KATIE TO HER HOME AND SUCCESSFULLY PLEADS HIS LOVE, MRS. MORLEY PHONES THAT ADOLPH THE PAINTER IS BEING GUARDED BY FINLEY'S MEN!
GLENN AND KATIE'S THREE HUSKY BROTHERS BATTER FINLEY'S HOODLUMS AND CAPTURE ADOLPH, WHO GETS SLUGGED DURING THE FRACAS!
What can they do to bring the truth to the voters? It's Katie "The Farmer's Daughter" for laughs...for love...for Congress! The show that'll win your heart and your vote as the happy hit of the year!
RKO PRESENTS
LORETTA YOUNG
JOSEPH COTTEN
ETHEL BARRYMORE
in
"The Farmer's Daughter"
with CHARLES BICKFORD
A DORE SCHARY PRODUCTION
Directed by H. C. POTTER
Written by ALLEN RIVKIN and LAURA KERR
—And this is a reproduction of the half-page COMIC-TYPE ad that runs in four of the biggest NATIONAL MAGAZINES, as well as in the comic or magazine sections of 118 leading Sunday newspapers—to an overpowering grand total CIRCULATION of 102,310,984!

Theatres Clear of New Tennessee Tax

MEMPHIS, March 3.—The State's two per cent sales tax does not apply to theatre or other amusement admission tickets, Assistant State Attorney General William Barry, said today, explaining that entertainment is not a "tangible personal property."

However, a measure may be introduced taxing admission tickets. Such a measure was introduced by the Knox delegation as a local act applying only to amusements in Knoxville Knox County. The Knox Act levies a one-cent tax on each 20 cents of admission fee. The act taxes all forms of amusement admission fees and specifically states that a cover charge will be considered an admission.

Some doubt as to the constitutionality of the local Knox Act has been raised on grounds that it would be class legislation, applying a tax burden to the residents of one community and not to residents of others. The Knox Act has not yet been signed by the governor.

Minneapolis Again Seeks License Rise

MINNEAPOLIS, March 3. — Local members of North Central Allied, met at luncheon today at the Dyckman Hotel to discuss their position and map moves to oppose a rise in theatre license fees, proposed by the city council. Stanley Kane, executive director, presided in the absence of president Ben Berger, who will not return from Florida until March 8.

Kane will appear before the city council at an open hearing scheduled for March 7, the council's opening move to increase annual fees for theatres. Fees in the city now range from $50 to $500 annually, depending on their location.

Seek Voice in N. Y. State Tax Hearings

The Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association will request permission to appear at any New York State Senate hearing on new taxation. This was decided at a meeting here presided over by Rodney Smith, executive director. The group is concerned at present over a newly-introduced measure which would give blanket authorization to New York cities and towns to draw additional tax revenue from any source, including theatres.

Wisconsin Considers Local Tax Measure

MILWAUKEE, March 3.—A bill allowing cities and villages of the state to levy admission taxes on film theatres and other entertainment places has been introduced in the Wisconsin Senate.

Theatre Exemption Stays in ASCAP Bill

INDIANAPOLIS, March 3.—A State Legislature conference committee today rejected the radio amendment to Indiana's Anti-ASCAP Bill, which would have freed broadcasters from its provisions, but accepted the theatre amendment, which would make distributors and producers liable for any damages assessed against exhibitors for unlicensed performances. The bill was sent to conference after the Senate failed to concur in House amendments. It is now up for final passage in both houses.

South Dakota Faces 10% Admission Levy

Pierre, S. D., March 3.—A 10-per cent tax on admissions to theatres and ballrooms is proposed in House bill No. 257 introduced in the South Dakota legislature. Proceeds would be earmarked for municipalities of township general funds.

Milwaukee Facing Strict Censorship

MILWAUKEE, March 3. — Mayor Bohn, the chief of police, and city councilmen are studying Chicago's motion picture censorship ordinance with a view to adopting a similar plan, following the recent controversy in which the city's motion picture commission recommended a ban on "The Outlaw" and the common council threatened to revoke the Towne Theatre's license if it did not halt the picture's exhibition.

The Chicago censorship ordinance is considered one of the toughest in the country, giving absolute power to mayor over film exhibition in the city. Permits are issued by the police chief before a film can be shown and violators may be fined $10 to $100. It also provides for an exhibition fee, which costs local exhibitors hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The Chicago ordinance bars immortal pictures, as well as films which ridicule any race or creed and pictures involving hanging, lynching or burning of a human being.

Chester To Produce 5 Films This Year

HOLLYWOOD, March 3. — Hal E. Chester, Allied Artists and Monogram producer, has five films slated for completion this year. First picture, to begin March 15, will be "A Guy Named Joe Palooka." The Constance Bennett Production for Allied Artists, "Smart Woman," will start on June 1. "The Big Story," Craig Rice mystery, is scheduled to start Aug. 1, followed by the second Joe Palooka film on Sept. 15. "Masterpiece," the Victor Pahlen novel, is set to start Nov. 14.

Bernard W. Burton will be associate producer on all films except "Smart Woman."

Jack Kirsch's Father, 80

CHICAGO, March 3.—Funeral services for Benjamin Kirsch, 80, father of National Allied president Jack Kirsch, will be held tomorrow at the Jaffee and Albert funeral chapel, with burial at Jewish Waldheim Cemetery.

Kirsch died Saturday in Miami, following a lengthy illness.

Brennan Memorial Mass

A memorial mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral, here, on Thursday for the late James M. Brennan, RKO Theatres executive, who died one year ago.

Warren Conner, 50

CINCINNATI, March 3. — Warren Conner, district manager for Altec Service Corp., died here on his 50th birthday.

20th-Fox Leads Tax Refund List

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Twentieth Century-Fox received the largest tax refund from the Government for overpayment during 1946, according to figures released by the Bureau of Internal Revenue today. The company was credited with an $821,348 refund. Second on the list were Warner Brothers officials, who received a total of $178,023.

Other industry refunds listed were: Columbia Pictures Corp., $5,173; Columbia Pictures of Brazil, $1,632; Columbia Pictures of Puerto Rico, $3,512; Columbia Pictures of West Indies, $588; Columbia Pictures of Near East, $7,493; International Newsreel Corp., $5,787; Loew's, $25,000; Loew's Theatre and Realty Corp., $6,875; Paramount Pictures of South America, $1,016; Paramount Films of India, $843.

Also: Paramount Land Corp., $700; Universal, $59,826; Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp., $942; Warner Bros. Theatres of Pennsylvania, $684; United Artists Theatre Co. of Michigan, $762; United Booking Office, $3,373; Arnold Productions, Inc., $2,130; Samuel Goldwyn Studios, $6,710; Monogram Pictures, $38,230; National Theatres Corp., $6,638; National Picture Corp. of California, $1,011; Principal Theatres, Inc. of Arizona, $550; Sherman Oaks Theatre Corp., $3,315; United Artists, $21,145.

Also, Albert Warner Trust, $27,385; Harry M. Warner Trust, $17,898; Jack L. Warner Trust, $13,808; Jack M. Warner, $24,000; Milton B. Warner (deceased), $830; Rea E. Warner, $14,666; Doris Warner Leroy, $65,280; and Jean Warner Sprague, $21,530.

Refunds to film stars included: Canada Lee, $1,200; Brian Aherne, $16,923; Louise Albritton, $859; June Allyson, $1,241; Thomas Mitchell, $14,654; Harry James, $18,586; John Wayne, $16,514; Ann Harding, $1,595; Sabu Dastagir, $15,014; Gracie Fields, $7,090. Producer Joseph Pasternak received $9,437.

General Aniline and Film Corp. received $461,072 (excess profits tax). Radio industry refunds included: Columbia Broadcasting, $2,072; National Broadcasting, $430,866; and Radio Corp. of America, $811,860 (excess profits tax) and $12,584 (income.)

Mrs. Cliff Almy Dead

HOLLYWOOD, March 3.—Mrs. Cliff Almy, wife of the Warner supervisor for Philippines and Japan, died in her sleep at her home here last Thursday, after a long illness brought on by confinement in a Japanese prison camp during the war. Burial plans await word from Almy, who recently returned to Manila.

Universal Stock Meeting Next Week

Universal's annual Stockholders' meeting will be held in Wilmington on March 12, the company reported yesterday.

Preparatory to the meeting, president Nate J. Blumberg has returned here from the Coast, and Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, has returned from Nassau.

Final UA Meeting Begins on Thursday

United Artists' final four-day sales meeting in its current series will get under way in Chicago on Thursday. Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution; Maury Orr, Western sales manager, and George Raftery of the legal department, have left El Paso, where the third meeting was concluded, for Chicago, and today J. J. Unger, general sales manager, and Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director, will leave New York for the final meeting.

The Chicago meeting, like its predecessors, will be devoted to discussions of sales policy and the screening of nine pictures. At the third meeting, delegates were briefed on the new provisions of the New York decree by Raftery. Sears presented a review of the company's current production status and cited the UA backlog of 29 pictures already completed and awaiting release. The negative cost to date, he said, amounts to $41,000,000. The meeting was conducted by Orr.

'Harry Thomas Drive' Will Begin April 23

Producers Releasing Corp. will launch on April 23, birthday of PRC president Harry H. Thomas, a "Harry Thomas Drive," which will run through Aug. 30, Ralph H. Clark, the company's new sales manager, announced yesterday. The following films will establish the drive's nucleus: "Born to Speed," "Devil on Wheels," "Untamed Fury" and current Philo Vance releases.

Clark said forthcoming PRC product will receive advertising-publicity-exploitation campaigns of vastly increased scope, with special emphasis to be placed on direct-to-exhibitor campaigns. "Higher budgets and more coordinated effort in production" will be evidenced by PRC, he added.

Loew's Enterprise Party

Loew's International, which will handle foreign distribution for Enterprise Prod., will be host at a cocktail party today to David Lewis, Enterprise producer, and Erich Maria Remarque, author of "Arch of Triumph" and "The Other Love."

IT'S TIME!

It's time you learned about Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service. It's READY NOW! For full information write Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

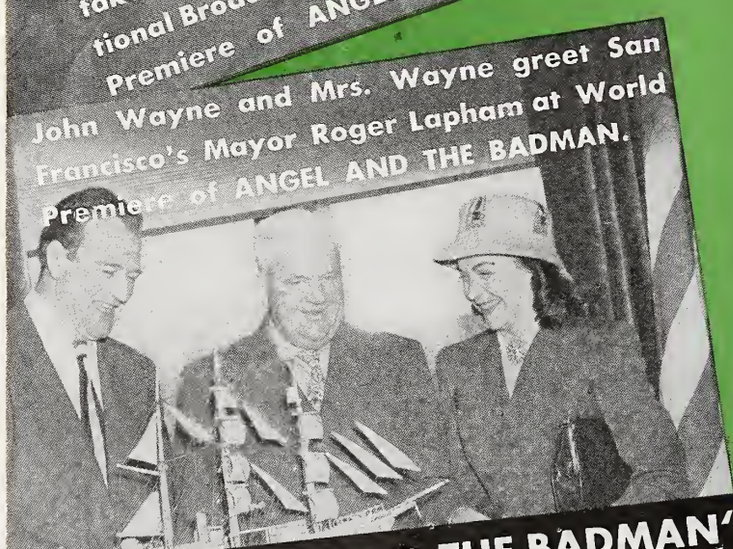
San Francisco

John Wayne greets his fans in San Francisco Fox Theatre at premiere of ANGEL AND THE BADMAN.

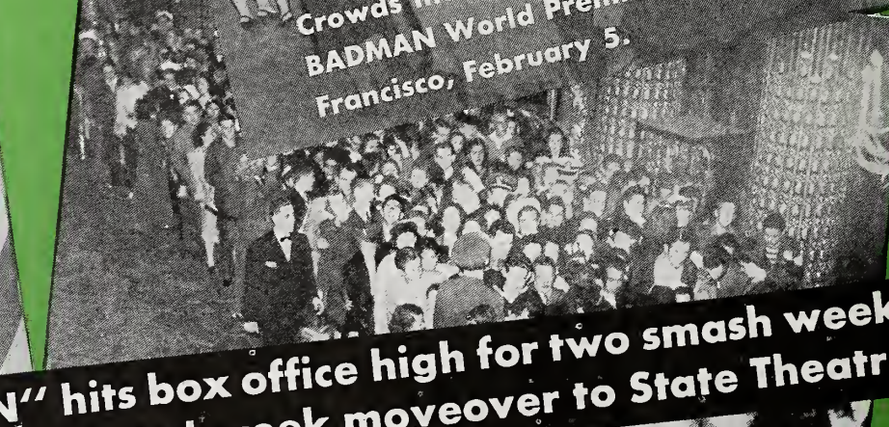
Woman's page editors of San Francisco newspapers give luncheon for Mr. and Mrs. John Wayne.

Producer Wayne and Director-Wife Grant take to the air on radio station KPO, National Broadcasting Company, during World Premiere of ANGEL AND THE BADMAN.

Crowds mob box office at ANGEL AND THE BADMAN World Premiere, Fox Theatre, San Francisco, February 5.



John Wayne and Mrs. Wayne greet San Francisco's Mayor Roger Lapham at World Premiere of ANGEL AND THE BADMAN.



"Hold-back" crowd in lobby of Fox Theatre at opening of ANGEL AND THE BADMAN.

His "ANGEL AND THE BADMAN" hits box office high for two smash weeks at Fox Theatre, San Francisco, with 3rd week moveover to State Theatre

takes John Wayne to its heart

as a Star
Acclaimed by the public as one of the great box office names

" 'ANGEL AND THE BADMAN' is winner. Especially a 'must see' for connoisseurs of leather and stirrup sagas . . . stellar cast. Producer Wayne has succeeded to noteworthy degree. Simple down-to-earth drama. . . rough and ready vigor."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

"Wayne and the great outdoors at their best. The plot . . . fresher than most. All praise due Writer-Director James Edward Grant."

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

as a Producer
Acknowledged by the press as an outstanding producer of box office entertainment

"One of lustiest barroom brawls you ever saw and cattle stampedes and shooting. Able cast. Wayne competent and engaging. Gail Russell glamorous in high degree . . . rattling good, she is, too. Harry Carey aces as always."

THE SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

"Something away from run-of-the-prairie tales. Ambushes, wild chases, a cattle stampede and a barroom battle royal. The climactic twist is also there."

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

JOHN WAYNE · GAIL RUSSELL

Angel and the BADMAN

with

HARRY CAREY · BRUCE CABOT · IRENE RICH · LEE DIXON

and STEPHEN GRANT · TOM POWERS · PAUL HURST

Written and Directed by James Edward Grant · A JOHN WAYNE Production

REPUBLIC PICTURES

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

Walter Gould Extends Bromberg Territory

Osmar Bromberg, general manager for United Artists in Mexico City has been promoted to the post of regional supervisor of the Northern tier of Latin American countries, by Walter Gould, VA foreign manager. These comprise Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Canal Zone, Colombia, Trinidad, Venezuela and the Caribbean area.

J. B. Urbina was named Bromberg's successor in Mexico. Urbina rejoins UA after a lapse of five years. He resigned in 1942 as the company's manager in Mexico to become sales manager of Clasa-Films Mundiales.

Broders Will Open NY Branch Thursday

Paul and Jack Broder are due in New York on Thursday from their home city of Detroit to open the first of at least three branch offices of a new company which they have started, to distribute 40 United Artists reissues, rights to which they have already acquired. Among the productions are 13 Hopalong Cassidys.

The Broders' company will be known as American Releasing Corp. The other two cities picked so far are Detroit and Los Angeles.

DeMille Wins Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3.—Cecil B. DeMille has won a California Supreme Court hearing on his appeal of a lower court upholding his suspension by the American Federation of Radio Artists, AFL, for refusing to pay a one-dollar union assessment in 1944. His appeal will be heard in April in Los Angeles.

Clearance Survey

(*Continued from page* 1)

Chicago, following a meeting of sales executives from all over the country here last week, and with the possibility that at least one other member of the legal department also will make field trips to review clearances.

A spokesman for M-G-M said yesterday that his company's clearance check-up still is scheduled to be made through a series of regional meetings, first of which was held in Chicago recently. However, difficulties have been encountered in scheduling the remaining sessions, with the result that attorneys may be dispatched on field survey trips in order to assure full compliance with the court's clearance requirements before the decree becomes effective on April 1.

RKO Radio and 20th Century-Fox carried on discussions of the clearance provisions at their recent New York sales meetings but they too are understood to be extending the survey to the field.

MITCHELL MAY, Jr.
CO., INC.
INSURANCE
•
Specializing
in requirements of the
Motion Picture Industry
75 Maiden Lane, New York
510 W. 6th St., Los Angeles

QP 'Awards' Function Held

QP Photo

Some 80 showmen and film company leaders of New York and elsewhere attended the annual judging of the "Quigley Showmanship Awards" held at the Hotel Astor here yesterday. The judging considered 22 top campaigns sent in from most states, Canada and other countries. Pictured above at the dais are, reading from left to right: Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio distribution vice-president; Sol Schwartz, RKO Service Corp. theatre vice-president, guest spokesman of the day; Martin Quigley, host; Gus Eyssell, head of New York's Music Hall; Malcolm Kingsberg, president of RKO Theatres, and J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., a visitor from Toronto.

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Astor Hotel here following judging of the entries submitted by 22 finalists in the 13th annual competition sponsored by the *Managers Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald*. Announcement of winners of the silver and bronze plaques, as well as a plaque for outstanding showmanship overseas, will be made on Friday.

Special tribute was paid by Schwartz to the efforts of second, third and fourth-run theatre managers, whose "ingenuity and enterprise are so important, where there is no publicity department, exploitation director or advertising man close at hand, where the entire campaign has to be planned and executed by the same person." He also commended the Quigley organization for "the high plane on which this competition has been conducted."

Martin Quigley, host at the luncheon, referred to screen entertainment and the way in which this entertainment is directed to public attention as "the two principal factors which determine the public relations status of the motion picture." He stressed the importance of keeping both films and selling methods "of the right character."

The annual awards were characterized by Quigley as "a direct and vital stimulus to that kind of thinking and action which leads to the effective and profitable presentation of motion picture shows" and as "the means of proper and continuing recognition of that quality of distinguished showmanship which is vital to the welfare and prosperity of the industry." Anticipating that the marked prosperity of recent years cannot continue indefinitely, he predicted that the "very real challenge" of the future will be met by the exploitation forces in this country and around the world in a manner which will be "another demonstration of their imagination, ingenuity and energy."

Arnold Stoltz and Lige Brien, previous Quigley Grand Award winners, were introduced at the luncheon, as were J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players-Canadian, and James B. Nairn, FP-C advertising-publicity director.

Others present included: Paul Ackerman, Glendon Allvine, Leon Bamberger, David Blum, Steve Brener, Samuel Cohen, Jerry Dale, Hal Danson, Oscar Doob, Steve Edwards, H. R. Emde, Gus Eyssell, William R. Ferguson, Mel Gold, Lou Goldberg, Leonard Goldenson, Ben Grimm, William J. Heineman, Al Horwitz, Charles Reed Jones, Gerald Keyser, Malcolm Kingsberg, Blanche Livingston, Hank Linet, Lawrence Lipkin, Fred Lynch, F. J. A. McCarthy, Charles B. McDonald, Harry McWilliams, Harry Mandel, Robert Mochrie, Rutgers Neilson, John J. O'Connor, David O'Malley, Lew Preston, Charles M. Reagan, Henderson M. Richey, Sidney Schaefer, Charles Schlaifer, Ed Schreiber, Fred Schwartz, Si Seadler, Ben Serkowich, Milt Silver, Robert Ungerfeld, Victor Volmar, Max Youngstein and Al Zimbalist.

Also: Martin Quigley, Jr., Charles Aaronson, Gertrude Merriam Ernstthall, Gus Fausel, Herbert Fecke, Chester Friedman, Ray Gallagher, Ray Gallo, David Harris, James D. Ivers, Sherwin Kane, Red Kann, Ray Lanning, Tom Loy, Paul Mooney, Jr., Terry Ramsaye, Floyd Stone, Theodore J. Sullivan and Sally Walton.

U. S. on Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

to voluntary arbitration, as such, provided it is employed only to settle contractual differences rather than to enforce the final judgment of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although the Justice Department has suggested that Congress could establish compulsory arbitration, it does not plan to ask for such legislation. The Department believes, however, that the only way to establish such a system is by Congressional sanction.

NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS
C and G FILM EFFECTS
723 7th Ave., N.Y.C. • LA 4-2226
TITLES and TRAILERS, SUPERIMPOSING
OPTICAL EFFECTS
CUTTING ROOMS, COLOR REPRODUCTIONS

Greek Aid Regional Meetings Scheduled

Regional meetings on the industry's appeal for the War Orphans of Greece will be held throughout the country during the drive, March 8 through April 8, with film executives attending from New York, it was decided at a meeting here yesterday at the offices of the American Theatres Association.

Meetings already are scheduled for New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington and San Francisco. Si Fabian, co-chairman of the drive with Ned Depinet and Jack Cohn, presided at yesterday's session, which was attended by: Charles Schaffer, Ben Serkowich, Fred Schwartz, Robert W. Coyne, Leon J. Bamberger, Harry Takiff, Arthur W. Brilant, Sam Rosen, Peter Levathes, George Skouras, Ed Fabian, Harold Rinzler, Harry Brandt, Sam Shain, Phillip Harling and George Xanthaky, the latter executive director of the Greek War Relief Appeal.

Snyder Moving Here

CLEVELAND, March 3.—Robert Snyder, Film Classics branch manager here for three years, left for New York at the weekend to become assistant to Albert Dezel, head of Albert Dezel Roadshow Attractions, which is being reorganized.

Chicago Interests

(*Continued from page* 1)

vested more than $1,000,000 in the company which will "invade" Hollywood as a production unit. Sonja Henie and Dan Duryea have been signed to co-star in one of the company's first pictures, and William A. Wellman has been contracted to direct its initial venture, "Moonrise."

Other Chicagoans who have invested in the new company include the following: Maurice A. Horner, Jr., retired head of Durand - McNeil, wholesale grocers; David M. Saltiel, banker; Richard Rosenwald, financier; Lee Heiman, head of Heiman and Co., textiles; David Copeland, director of General Transportation Corp.; David N. Goldenson, stock broker; Louis B. Kuppenheimer, clothing manufacturer; Maxwell Abbell, head of an office building-hotel syndicate; David Saul Klafter, architect; Peter Torosian, rubber manufacturer; Harry Hoffman, head of J. S. Hoffman Co., and Henry Hart, head of Hart, Schaffner and Marx. A. Ronald Button, Los Angeles attorney, is secretary of the company, which has been incorporated at Sacramento, Cal.

Vladimir Pozner, who wrote "The Dark Mirror," has been signed to write "Moonrise". The new company will also produce "The Loop," an original about Chicago, which is being written by Jay Dratler, and "Gainesville, USA" which will be written by Lynn Riggs.

In addition to Wellman, other directors signed include E. H. Griffith, Arthur Lubin and John Rawlins. Production manager for the unit in Hollywood is Ben Hirsch. No releasing arrangements have been made as yet with any distributor, although negotiations are now underway. Abe Lastfogel of the William Morris Agency, is supervising all talent deals being negotiated by the company.

Although unconfirmed, it is reported that the Grant organization has offered James Stewart $335,000 to direct and star in "Moonrise," which will be adapted from the book by Chicagoan Theodore Strauss.

4-Day Electronics Convention Opens

Described by its president W. R. G. Baker as a "realistic appraisal of what has been accomplished to date and what may reasonably be expected in the near future," the Institute of Radio Engineers opened its four-day convention and exhibit at the Grand Central Palace and Hotel Commodore here yesterday. The field of electronics is covered by 166 companies showing new components, materials and techniques in operating equipment.

Technical advances in television will be taken up in panel discussions today by E. W. Engstrom, R. D. Kell and G. C. Sziklai of RCA Laboratories, by C. E. Hallmark of Farnsworth Television, and by representatives of a Holland television company. W. B. Lodge of Columbia Broadcasting, will report tomorrow on the results of nine months of field tests to determine the coverage of the CBS color transmitter W2XCS operating on 480 megacycles in New York.

Board Here Weighs Video Plan Today

A plan has been adopted by the sub-committee on apartment house television installations of the Television Broadcasters Association in answer to objections which landlords have made against placing video antennas on the roofs of buildings, and will be presented to representatives of the Real Estate Board of New York when the two groups meet here today.

The suggested plan will permit immediate installation of television receivers in multiple dwellings, TBA reports.

100th Loew Dividend

Loew's, Inc., which has paid consecutive dividends since 1923, will pay its 100th dividend on March 31.

Music Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

Robbins and vice-president and treasurer of Loew's.

At a meeting of the stockholders of Robbins, the following directors were elected: Moskowitz, Leopold Friedman, J. Robert Rubin, Joseph R. Vogel, Jesse T. Mills, Joseph H. Moswokitz and W. C. Michel, the last two also being vice-presidents of 20th Century-Fox.

Newly-elected officers of Robbins include: C. C. Moskowitz, president; Friedman and J. H. Moskowitz, vice-presidents; Charles K. Stern, treasurer; Abe Olman, secretary; Harold J. Cleary, Bernard Prager and Stephen Lezitz, assistant secretaries, and Mills, assistant treasurer.

The Robbins group of music publishing firms includes: Robbins, Leo Feist, Inc., Miller Music Corp., Walter Jacobs, Inc., Big Three Music Corp., Gene Krupa Music Corp., Robbins International Corp., Variety Music, Inc., and the newly-formed Harry Warren Music Corp.

A BUY-TRANS-LUX MOVIE SCREEN
13' x 18', Still in Original Frame.
Used Once. Perfect Condition.
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Three Promoted by Minneapolis Circuit

MINNEAPOLIS, March 3.—Creation of two new executive positions and one promotion in the Minnesota Amusement circuit are announced by Harry B. French, president. George C. Shepherd, auditor, has been appointed to the new post of director of sales and merchandising; Robert J. La Piner becomes the company's first director of special events, and Forrest D. Sathre replaces Shepherd. All appointments are effective March 15.

The new post occupied by Shepherd has been created to launch a program of expansion and improvement of merchandising in the 82 theatres operated by the company in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Wisconsin. In his new assignment, La Piner will be in charge of planning and execution of special events, including conventions, business meetings and traffic management.

Wage Demands

(*Continued from page* 1)

cified an increase equalling the living-cost increase shown by U. S. Labor Bureau statistics as representing the rise between July 1, 1946 and Jan. 1, has announced that its new wage levels will go into effect on April 1, retroactive to Jan. 1.

All other unions, which uniformly were parties to the strike-settlement interim agreement made on July 1, when they received 25 per cent increases, were given contracts providing for reopening when the figure now made public made by the Labor Department became available. Most of them have already applied for reopening negotiations.

Although employers were not bound to deal identically with all, it is regarded as certain that all will seek 11.17 per cent. The total increase figure of $13,500,000 for 1947, if all unions are granted identical alternations in scale, is based on December employment figures, when average payment, received by about 24,000 workers, was $98.98 per week.

Living-Cost Pay

(*Continued from page* 1)

carried on by the IATSE's Hollywood leaders.

Walsh denied reports that he is taking part in a movement to settle the current Hollywood studio strike through conversations with William Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, an affiliate of which is involved in a jurisdictional dispute with "IA" carpenters. Walsh indicated that he is standing firm on his contention that the Hutcheson group has failed to live up to an arbitration decision.

Save 2 Film Sections

(*Continued from page* 1)

Office of International Trade and is a fact-finding officer for the film industry.

George Canty of the State Department has only two assistants, and his total requirement for a year is around $30,000. This figure includes office rent, equipment, printing and other expenses. Canty's section exchanges information about foreign trade and acts in behalf of the industry to eliminate trade barriers.

MGM Sales Officials In Midwest Session

DES MOINES, March 3. — Future sales and distribution policies on forthcoming releases were discussed by M-G-M executives with local and Midwest representatives today at the opening here of a three-day sales session. Officials of Tri-States and Central States, as well as independent exhibitors were also present today.

Among the executives here are: John E. Flynn, Chicago; Joel Bezahler, New York, and Ralph W. Maw, Minneapolis. D. C. Kennedy, local branch manager, was host.

Zorn Hits MPA

(*Continued from page* 1)

here, asked, "When are exhibitors going to awaken to the fact the Johnston office has not and cannot speak for exhibitors? Only a strong national exhibitor organization can speak for exhibitors and the need for such leadership is great."

United Theatre Owners, while endorsing the work of the American Theatres Association, is not officially a member. Zorn, however, is a national ATA officer.

Zorn said: "Pictures are loaded with crime, horror and sensuality. It is becoming a problem to avoid booking and playing two, three or even four murder pictures in a row. The Johnston office pays no more heed to complaints of exhibitors and this condition than do producers."

Zorn also criticized what he termed extravagant motion picture advertising and said that as a result the public today disbelieves all motion picture advertising. He also condemned publicity given to Hollywood divorces, and predicted that it is fast becoming a disgrace and may even threaten the entire business as it did in the past. "In the wake of all this questionable publicity and subject matter, there is a rising tide of censure by religious groups, Parent-Teacher associations and youth organizations against the motion picture business. Boycotts of theatres for long periods of time, and not just a certain picture are threatened and censorship and higher taxes are sure to come unless something is done and quickly," Zorn said, adding: "Instead of trying to correct these conditions the Johnston office has sat supinely by and let these conditions develop."

20th-Fox Product Bid

(*Continued from page* 1)

uct would be sold picture-by-picture and theatre-by-theatre, with the distributor being obligated to accept the highest bid, "if such bid produces the rental revenue" set up. If no bid matches a designated minimum flat rental, 20th-Fox reserves the right to reject all bids, Levy added.

Levy said the new competitive bidding system ordered by the New York Federal Court applies to all unplayed company product in a competitive situation, and new product as it becomes available.

It is also understood that in case all bids are rejected due to failure of the bidding theatres to offer the minimum rental requirements on a flat basis, 20th-Fox is then free to negotiate exhibition of the picture or pictures rejected in the competitive situation, either flat rental or percentage, "in any way it sees fit" without violating the sales provision of the decree.

In one year Victor and Columbia Records sold $13,100,000 worth of platters featuring the musical artists of

Released thru UA

Para. Price Cut 'Helpful'

First-runs in New York fought another losing battle with the weatherman over the weekend, particularly Sunday, as snow, cold and generally unpleasant conditions kept many a potential customer at home. Some estimated totals for the current week are good, many are weak and all would have been better, undoubtedly, with less adverse business factors as well as the weather.

The Paramount's lowered admission scale, the management reports, provided a "good deal of help," with the first week's gross for "Suddenly It's Spring" and a stage show close to $85,000. This is good but not outstanding. The house looks to stimulate its morning business especially with the price cut from 70-85c to 55 cents from opening to one o'clock. This met with public approval as the new policy went into effect on Wednesday but, reportedly, the attendance figures fell off Thursday, Friday and again yesterday. The Paramount claims a week-day average of 7,800 for the new opening-to-one-o'clock period against an average for the past year of 3,400, same time of day.

'Sea of Grass' Good

"Sea of Grass" had a good opening at the Music Hall where with a stage presentation the Thursday-through-Sunday business is reported at $84,500. The initial week should wind up with $133,000. "The Late George Apley," "The Egg and I" and J. Arthur Rank's "Great Expectations" will follow in that order, the last named probably to open early in June. "Angel and the Badman" stirred up box-office commotion at the Gotham with $25,000 likely for the first week.

"Song of Scheherazade" also scored in its debut on Broadway, with a total of $35,000 anticipated in its first week at the Criterion. "The Best Years of Our Lives" is falling off just a little at the Astor but still reigns supreme as a top money-maker on such an extended run; the 15th week should be good for $47,500.

"Beginning or the End," with Kathryn Grayson topping a stage bill is losing ground at the Capitol where the second week figures to bring in $71,000; the first week's gross was $84,700. The Roxy is experiencing a poor week, the third and final one for "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," with about $68,000 apparent, the five days ending Sunday night bringing $50,000. "Boomerang" bows in tomorrow with Ed Sullivan, Broadway columnist, and Katherine Dunham among those on the stage.

Winter Garden Down

"I'll Be Yours" is down to approximately $15,000 in a second week at the Winter Garden and will be followed March 15 by "Stairway to Heaven." The latter film is now at the Park, playing on a two-a-day basis, and business for the 10th week is mediocre, at an estimated $10,000. The picture will hold for three extra days, to be followed Saturday by "The Years Between," which will be offered on a continuous policy at popular prices.

Third and final week of "That Way with Women" and Claude Thornhill's orchestra probably will give the Strand an unimportant $30,000, "Pursued" will follow on Friday with "Stallion Road" to be next, starting April 4.

Reviews

"Blaze of Noon"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, March 3

FOR marquee purposes, Paramount's dramatization of pioneer days in the airmail service offers the names of Anne Baxter, William Holden, Sonny Tufts and William Bendix. Sterling Hayden and Howard da Silva lend added strength, and newcomer Johnny Sands distinguishes himself with a fine performance.

Laid in the early '20s, the opening of the screenplay by Frank Wead and Arthur Sheekman finds the principals—four brothers—barnstorming with a circus troupe. One of them leaves the troupe to take a job with a small airline which has landed an airmail contract. He is followed by his brothers, who get similar jobs piloting mail planes.

The venture starts out rosily enough, but as soon as one of the brothers falls in love and marries, conflict arises. The girl, living in the same house with so many brothers-in-law, finds herself deprived of privacy, of any semblance of normal home life and, at all times, she is less important to her husband—and to his brothers—than flying, with which all four are completely absorbed.

Then the youngest brother crashes and is killed. Another brother, hysterical over the accident, gives up flying—but only temporarily. A friend and co-pilot is grounded for recklessness, and his antics lead the company's backers to threaten withdrawal of their financial support. A third brother, having fallen in love with his sister-in-law, and thereby disrupted his emotional life, crashes and is permanently crippled.

Final and most crushing blow comes when Holden, the married brother (and by now a father as well) is trapped by storm and darkness, and plunges to his death. It is not, certainly, a cheerful picture, and its audiences had best bring handkerchiefs. John Farrow's direction is masterly, and takes full advantage of the many opportunities for suspense which the script affords. The flying sequences, as performed by ace stuntman Paul Mantz, are breathtaking. Robert Fellows produced.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

"Undercover Maisie"

(*M-G-M*)

ANN SOTHERN'S familiar and reliable "Maisie" comedy character, turning police detective, romps through a series of adventures which are thoroughly delightful. The humor is a blend of sophistication and "corn," thus widening its audience appeal. And the story is solid, at least until it goes just a little wild toward the climax, when the suspense grows so great that some fans may fear a threatened bullet is going to put an end to the Maisie saga.

Thelma Robinson's original screenplay avoids the worn-out paths of workaday crime fiction by giving over more than half of the yarn to Miss Sothern's training for her police career. These sequences, spiced by legitimate slapstick in a gymnasium, find Maisie pulled back and forth between the amorous attentions of Barry Nelson, her mentor on the police force, and Mark Daniels, her tutor. Finally, armed with a diploma and a badge, she goes forth to track down Leon Ames, a fortune teller whose racket is to rob women who fall under his spell. She calls on the fellow, pretending to need advice about investing money, whereupon a fake real estate agent, Dick Simmons, comes into her life. On the verge of trapping him, Maisie blunders and gets carried off by the culprits, who decide to skip town and shoot her on the way out. Cleverly, however, she sends word to headquarters, and the cops, giving chase, find her tossing her captors about gymnastically on a California beach. Performances are uniformly good, under Harry Beaumont's direction. George Haight's production is economical but adequate.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 28.

TOM LOY

At the Hollywood, "Nora Prentiss" is not doing too impressively with about $23,000 indicated for a second week.

"Blaze of Noon" opens today at the Rivoli, replacing "California" which grossed an estimated $18,000 in its seventh and final week. At the Globe, "Strange Woman" slipped to $23,000, expected, for a second week, compared with $34,000 for the first week. "Sinbad the Sailor" is holding up fairly well at the Palace which looks for $25,000 in a sixth week; "The Locket" will follow on March 12. "The Michigan Kid" at the Rialto is enjoying a good second week, estimated at $8,000, although far short of the first week's $14,000.

"Bedelia" lost much of its box-office charm in a fourth week at the Victoria, the gross being estimated at $7,000; "The Thief of Bagdad," a reissue, will follow tomorrow. A total of $8,000—good enough—is reported for the 27th week of "Henry V" at the John Golden, on a moveover.

Mexican Exhibitors Resist Price Cutting

MEXICO CITY, March 3.—Under the pressure of demands for reduced admission prices, now at a new high of 85 cents in first-runs here, local exhibitors have notified the Federal and municipal governments that any reductions will be impossible to sustain unless wage reductions are also effected.

Meanwhile, employes have asserted they will not take a pay cut. Rather, the employes are said to be agitating for wage increases.

Cinecolor Board Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, March 3.—Cinecolor's board of directors meets on March 16 at its Burbank studio, with the replacement of William F. Loss, recently resigned vice-president, among the matters on the agenda.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BALTIMORE

For the second consecutive weekend, bad weather has affected gross. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 6:

THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,000) (29c-37c-46c-54c and 56c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $14,000)

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—KEITH'S (2,406) (29c-37c-44c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (28c-40c-50c-58c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $12,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—STANLEY (3,280) (29c-37c-50c-58c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $16,500)

BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (29c-37c-50c-59c) 7 days. With stage show. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $17,500)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,500)

A SCANDAL IN PARIS (UA)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (21c-29c-45c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,500)

BRIEF ENCOUNTER (U-I)—LITTLE (328) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000)

ATLANTA

Business is satisfactory, considering the fact that the weather has been very cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 5:

THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c) Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,000)

THE VERDICT (WB)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c) Gross: $8,000. (Average: $8,200)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c) 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $5,700. (Average: $5,600)

SHADOW OF A WOMAN (WB) and CRIMINAL COURT (RKO Radio)—Capitol (2,446) (44c-50c) Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,200)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (55c-60c) 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $15,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

Holdovers managed to do near-average business despite a conglomeration of competing entertainment. Estimated grosses for the week ending March 6:

BOOM TOWN (M-G-M reissue) — CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,500)

COME AND GET IT (Film Classics)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,400)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox) — LYRIC (1,100). (50c-70c-[illegible]) [illegible]ys, third week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500)

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,000)

DESTRY RIDES AGAIN (Univ. reissue) and WHEN THE DALTONS RODE (Univ. reissue)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 6 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: Gross: $11,500. (Average: $13,500)

AMPP Re-elects Vogel

HOLLYWOOD, March 3.—Robert M. Vogel has been re-elected for the second year as chairman of the Associated Motion Picture Producers' international committee.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 44 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1947 TEN CENTS

Start Ending Pools With Independents

Para., Fabian Dissolve; Other Talks Progress

The five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit, already well advanced toward carrying out the New York Federal District Court's mandate to dissolve pooling agreements with each other by April 1, now are turning to the problem of terminating pools with independent exhibitors, deadline for which is July 1.

First of the dissolutions to be settled with an independent involves Paramount and Fabian Theaters in Middletown, N. Y. The Paramount there will become part of the Netco circuit, Paramount affiliate, and the State and Stratton will revert to Fabian. Meanwhile, talks are progressing between RKO Theatres and Randforce regarding the Republic in Brooklyn, and

(*Continued on page 6*)

UA Still Concerned Over Bid Approvals

United Artists officials continue to be concerned over the fixing of legal responsibility for rejection of exhibitor offers for films under the new competitive bidding system and believe that ultimately it must be decided whether the company or the producer's sales representative is to be responsible.

Sales representatives of producers releasing through United Artists have

(*Continued on page 4*)

N.Y. Decision Held No Production Curb

The New York Federal Court's anti-trust decision banning price fixing, and consequently regular road shows, is hardly likely to discourage the production of multi-million dollar pictures, according to David Lewis, Enterprise producer, who sees four-wall theatre rental deals as an adequate means of realizing sufficient returns on high film investments for

(*Continued on page 8*)

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago today Will H. Hays signed his first contract bringing him into the motion picture industry. He became president of the National Association of the M. P. Industry, predecessor of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, now the Motion Picture Association of America, to which Hays is under contract in a consultative capacity.

Will Hays

Present at the contract signing 25 years ago were the late Marcus Loew, Samuel Goldwyn, R. H. Cochrane, William Fox, Earle W.

(*Continued on page 8*)

Dewey Seen Asking Local Taxes Soon

ALBANY, N. Y., March 4.—Governor Dewey is expected to recommend this week legislation granting counties, large upstate cities and New York City increased taxing powers, largely to pay increased teachers' salaries. The new taxes could be on sales, or alternative levies, such as on amusements, hotel rooms, automobiles, etc.

It is reported that cities could share in county receipts from these taxes, or impose their own. New York City's special taxing authority would also be expanded, it is said.

Meanwhile, Senator Condon and

(*Continued on page 6*)

Century Policy on Single Films Eased

Greater flexibility in Century Theatres' policy on single booking, plus indications pointing to a stronger voice for managers and district managers, appeared to be in the offing as a consequence of suggestions proposed yesterday at an initial open forum held at the Hotel Astor here by the circuit.

Fred J. Schwartz, Century vice-president, in summing up questions raised about the determination of whether a feature would be played alone or on a double bill, declared

(*Continued on page 6*)

Kodak Stock Split 5-to-1

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 4.—Eastman Kodak's board of directors voted today to recommend to the stockholders a five-for-one split of the common shares now outstanding; a change of the common stock from no par to $10 par value; and an increase in the number of authorized shares of common stock.

Recurring reports of the contemplated split has sent Eastman common stock on the New York Stock Exchange soaring another $4 per share yesterday, bringing its book value from $215 at the beginning of the year, to $243 as of yesterday.

The new proposals, which in order to be effective must obtain a two-thirds vote of E. K. stockholders at the annual meeting in Flemington, N.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Felix Jenkins, 57 Dies in New Jersey

Felix A. Jenkins, 57, secretary of 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. and a member of its board of directors, died yesterday at Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, N. J.

Felix Jenkins

Jenkins, the son of the late Henry E. and Eugenia Alger Jenkins, was born in Pelham Manor, N. Y., and was graduated from Montclair School and the University of Virginia Law School. He was admitted to the New York Bar in June, 1913, and entered the general practice of law here with the firm of White and Case. In Jan., 1928, he became a member of the legal department of the old Fox Flm Corp.

He leaves a widow and four sons.

Ind. House Rejects Formal Censorship

INDIANAPOLIS, March 4.—A bill asking voluntary censorship of motion pictures, radio and newspapers was adopted by the Indiana House today, as a substitute for a bill that would have set up a censor board in every county. The resolution stated that the Legislature "is not desirous of passing restrictive legislation if agen-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Johnston Asks Arbitration of Labor Disputes

Hits 'Reds' in House Testimony on Strike

WASHINGTON, March 4. — Compulsory arbitration between labor and management to eliminate disputes was urged by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, today before the House Labor and Education committee. He implied that the present studio dispute may have been agitated by Communists.

Johnston said that while some Communists are working in Hollywood "none of their influence or ideology gets into pictures." He said the Communists, and there are only a few, are in minor positions not connected with actual preparation of film scripts.

Questioned at length about the eight-month-old studio jurisdictional dispute, Johnston said he does not know whether the strike was started by Communists or not. "However, Communist countries do not permit

(*Continued on page 6*)

British Exhibitors Reject Print Cut

LONDON, March 4.—The Cinematograph Exhibitors Association's executive committee, which has been reviewing possible channels for saving 1,500,000 feet of raw stock weekly in view of the drastic shortage brought

(*Continued on page 6*)

RKO Pathe Closes State Dept. Deal

RKO Pathe will produce 12 one-reel "news magazine" issues for overseas distribution by the U. S. State Department, under terms of a deal just completed by Hamilton MacFadden, associate chief of the De-

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Issue

"The Guilt of Janet Ames" and "Framed" are reviewed on page 8.

Key city grosses are given on page 7.

Eleven Will Join Equipment Unit

CHICAGO, March 4.—Roy Boomer, secretary-treasurer of the Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers' Association, Inc., has received applications for membership from the following 11 theatre equipment firms: Ace Electric Manufacturing Co., New York; Ballam Safe Co., St. Petersburg; Detail Production Co., Detroit; Electric Ad Clock Co., Chicago; Lawrence Metal Products, New York; Manley, Inc., Kansas City; Metropolitan Scenic Studios, Omaha; Mohawk Carpet Mills, Amsterdam; Star Manufacturing Co., St. Louis; Thabet Manufacturing Co., Toledo; Theatre Specialties, Los Angeles.

Boomer also disclosed that a meeting of the board of directors of TESMA will be held in Chicago at the Drake Hotel on April 20 to discuss association matters as well as details of the 1947 annual trade show, which will be held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, Sept. 24-29. Members of the board are: Harry Strong, Strong Electric Corp.; V. J. Nolan, National Carbon; Bob Engel, DeVry Corp.; Erwin Wagner, Wagner Sign Service; E. J. Vallen, Vallen, Inc.; Carl M. Weber, Sr., Weber Machine Corp.; and the officers of TESMA: Oscar F. Neu, president; W. A. Gedris, vice-president, and Boomer.

Gamble Will Maintain Monarch Office Here

Ted Gamble, chairman of the board of the American Theatres Association, will establish an office in New York to take personal charge of Monarch Theatres, Inc., purchase of which he finalized here this week. Price for the six houses involved was approximately $1,350,000.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 20, the deal was held up for a time because of legal technicalities following the death of David Chatkin, minority stockholder. Harry Katz, president of the company; E. J. Gennett, treasurer, and Le Roy J. Furman, assistant treasurer, will remain with the organization.

Monarch has three houses in Indianapolis and one each in Akron, Steubenville and New Castle, Pa.

Gamble has returned to the West Coast and will be back in New York later this month.

Griffith Partners Meet March 19-20

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 4.—Annual meeting of Griffith partners and managers will be held here March 19-20. C. F. Motley, Griffith Amusement Co. and Griffith Consolidated Theatres executive, said formal business sessions of the delegates will be held at the Skirvin Hotel on March 20. The first day will be devoted to conferences between home office officials, department heads and the visiting partners and managers.

L. C. Griffith, circuit president, is still convalescing at his home in San Antonio, and will be unable to attend the convention.

Personal Mention

S. BARRET McCORMICK, RKO Radio advertising-publicity director, is due in New York on Monday after three weeks on the Coast.

•

RAY BELL, former Loew's-M-G-M publicist, now with Capital Airlines-PCA, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the National Association of Public Relations Counsel in New York.

•

WILLIAM McCLURE, Universal's Charlotte office manager, his wife, his brother ROBERT McCLURE of Theatre Booking Service there, and his wife, sustained injuries in a recent automobile accident near Shelby, N. C.

•

ALBERT LEWIN, producer, who is now in London from New York, will depart for Paris on Saturday, and later will visit the Mediterranean and Syria.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager for Warner Bros., will be in Boston from New York for the remainder of the week.

•

LOU NOVINS, assistant to Paramount president BARNEY BALABAN, was in Washington from New York yesterday.

•

ED HINCHY, head of Warner Brothers' home office playdate department, was in Albany yesterday.

•

BRIAN AHERNE is due here from the Coast on Friday.

•

DAVID O. SELZNICK has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

JULES LEVEY, United Artists producer, left New York yesterday for Chicago.

•

CLIFF ALMY, Warner Brothers' supervisor for the Philippines and Japan, arrived in Hollywood from Manila by plane yesterday to make funeral arrangements for MRS. ALMY, who died there last Thursday.

•

RUTH FREEMAN, statistical clerk in the United Artists New York exchange, will be married here on March 22 to IRVING DIAMOND.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western division sales manager, is vacationing on the Coast and will return to New York about March 30.

•

HILLER INNES, executive assistant to RUSSELL HOLMAN, Paramount's Eastern production chief, has returned here from a West Indies vacation.

•

GEORGE IVAN SMITH, J. Arthur Rank Organization producer, is due to arrive here today from England aboard the *Queen Elizabeth*.

•

J. J. DONOHUE, Paramount's Central division sales manager, is in Chicago from New York.

•

LOUIS FRIEDMAN, production manager of Kayton-Spiero advertising agency, is the father of a baby boy, born yesterday at the Bronx Hospital.

•

JOSEPH J. DEITCH, Paramount theatre executive, has returned to New York from a tour of the Mid-West

Einfeld, Loew Due on Enterprise Releasing

Charles Einfeld, Enterprise president, and David L. Loew, chairman of the board, are due here from the Coast this week to help launch the company's distribution program, in conferences with George J. Schaefer, distribution vice-president, who arrived here yesterday.

Also scheduled for this week is finalization of Schaefer's deal for purchase of some 300 Universal features and a large number of short subjects, most of which were produced prior to 1938. The pictures, Schaefer confirmed, will be reissued by a company which George J. Schaefer, Jr., will set up. Purchase price is understood to be in the neighborhood of $1,500,000.

Lichtman Has Operation

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—Al Lichtman, a vice-president of Loew's, Inc., and a production executive, was reported resting comfortably at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital here following a major operation performed today.

Rieger Signs with Savini

Producer Jack Rieger has signed with Robert Savini of Astor Pictures for distribution in the U. S. and Canada of two features, "Stairway for a Star" and "Hollywood Bound," plus a colored short.

Special Events for 'A Wonderful Life'

BEAUMONT, Tex., March 4.—Julius Gordon, president of Jefferson Amusement Co., flew here from Dallas today with Frank Capra and James Stewart to be guests at a press luncheon in the Hotel Beaumont, where over 400 were present, including civic leaders and exhibitors. In the evening they were interviewed over Dallas radio station KGKO by R. J. O'Donnell of the Interstate Circuit in connection with the Texas premiere of the Liberty-RKO-Radio production, "It's a Wonderful Life," at the Majestic Theatre tomorrow.

'Honeymoon' Preview

A preview of Eagle-Lion Films' "Lost Honeymoon" will be held at the Victoria Theatre, here, this evening. Prior to the screening, E-L executives will be hosts to trade press representatives at Toots Shor's.

Festival Office Here

An office has been opened here to handle American activities of the World Film Festival to be held in Brussels in June. Alex Salkin is Festival representative in this country, and Richard Zondervan is U. S. general manager.

Newsreel Parade

THE record plane flight from Hawaii to New York, Chicago's Loop explosion, President Truman opening the Red Cross drive, the British royal family's arrival in South Africa, sport highlights, including skiing, baseball and the Santa Anita Handicap are among happenings recorded in current newsreels. Complete synopses follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 54—Fighter plane flies 5,000 miles non-stop from Hawaii to New York. Chicago explosion demolishes building—loss runs to millions. South Africa greets British royal family. President Truman asks help for the Red Cross. Sports: Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Braves in training. Ski-jumping in Michigan, Santa Anita handicap.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 252—Army plane in record hop from Hawaii to New York. British royal family gets South Africa welcome. President Truman appeals for Red Cross aid. Fifteen-to-one shot from Chile wins $100,000 Santa Anita classic. Hank Greenberg joins Pittsburgh Pirates. National ski-jumping champ.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 55—Flying record smashed: P-51 crosses U. S. in six hours, P-82 makes Hawaii to New York in 14½ hours. Truman backs Red Cross campaign. South Africa hails British royal family. Report from England. Fifteen-to-one shot wins $100,000 Santa Anita handicap.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 57—P-82 in record hop from Hawaii. "Lucky" Luciano in Cuba controversy. Blast rocks Chicago Loop. Truman opens Red Cross drive. South Africa greets royal family. Ski champs. Santa Anita handicap.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 18—Martial law declared in Palestine. British royal family greeted on arrival in South Africa. Army fighter plane breaks long-distance record from Hawaii to New York. Long-shot wins Santa Anita handicap. Skiing: National tourney in Michigan, Canadian champs.

Would Make Theatre Taxation Illegal

SACRAMENTO, CAL., March 4.—Following through the successful legal battle in San Bernardino in which Fox West Coast Theatres and Warners joined forces to fight the imposition of an amusement tax, a bill has been presented in the California legislature making local theatre taxes unconstitutional.

Introduced by Assemblyman Lester A. McMillan of Los Angeles, the bill states that any taxes collected through theatre admissions shall be impounded by the courts and refunded to the theatres. It further allows that any person entitled to the refund must file a claim within six months after the decision becomes final, otherwise the money shall automatically go to the state.

Mayor Advises Tax Wait

TRACY, CAL., March 4. — Mayor Stocking of this city has advised withholding action on a proposed amusement levy to provide funds for recreation until other California cities imposing such levies complete test cases.

Grabois Promoted

Joseph Grabois has been named Century Theatres home office manager, succeeding Norbert Kellman.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

A SEA OF PEOPLE FOR "THE SEA OF GRASS"!

It is the third M-G-M Hit in succession to pack the Music Hall! First "Till The Clouds Roll By", next *"The Yearling" and now "The Sea of Grass." The Biggest for the Biggest Theatre in the world!

M-G-M presents its Spectacular Dramatization of a Great Novel!

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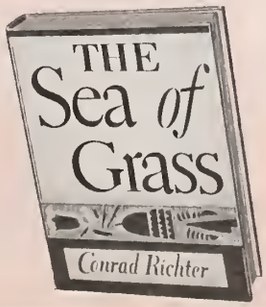


with Phyllis Thaxter Edgar Buchanan Harry Carey • Ruth Nelson • Robert Armstrong • Screen Play by Marguerite Roberts and Vincent Lawrence • Based on the Novel by Conrad Richter • Directed by ELIA KAZAN • Produced by PANDRO S. BERMAN • An M-G-M Picture.

* **"YEARLING" PRESS-TIME FLASH!** *In its first engagement following its Los Angeles Premiere and its New York Music Hall run it set an all-time M G-M record for the initial week at the State-Lake Theatre, Chicago. Just the beginning!*

AAA Receives Two New Complaints

Two new theatre arbitration complaints, one in New Haven and the other in Cincinnati, have added to the recent spurt of activity in the American Arbitration Association's field offices, thereby prolonging the existence of some tribunals beyond the April 1 deadline set by the New York Federal Court decree. That these additional cases were expected was reported Monday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, with further complaints still anticipated in Albany and Cleveland.

In the Cincinnati complaint, Maurice Chase and Herman Hunt, raising charges of discrimination by M-G-M in its insistence on nine days' availability for the Vogue, Suburban and Ritz theatres, all neighborhood houses in Cincinnati, point out that other distributors grant seven days' availability. They add, furthermore, that all distributors, including M-G-M, grant availability of seven days to 23 local subsequent-run houses there.

In the New Haven complaint, Princess Theatre Corp., which operates the Princess in Hartford, contends that the seven days' clearance provided by Paramount, M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox, RKO Radio and Warner Brothers in favor of the Colonial, also in Hartford, causes "indeterminable hardships" for the Princess because it is neither in direct or indirect competition with the Colonial. The complainant seeks 30 days' availability after first runs in Hartford.

Riesner Joins E-L

HOLLYWOOD, March 4. — Charles Riesner, veteran director who last week ended his seven-year contract with M-G-M, has joined Eagle Lion as a producer.

His wife, Mrs. Miriam Hope Riesner, died Saturday night at their home in Laguna Beach, after a long illness.

Tennessee House Burns

ATLANTA, March 4.—The Cherokee Theatre at Copperhill, Tenn., has been destroyed by fire.

Eagle-Lion, Rank In London Meetings

General discussions on the distribution interchange of J. Arthur Rank and Eagle-Lion product between representatives of both companies will take place in London within two weeks. Arthur B. Krim, Eagle-Lion president, and Robert S. Benjamin, Rank, Inc., U. S. president, will sail aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* on Friday.

Krim is taking with him a print of "Lost Honeymoon," which will be the first Eagle-Lion U. S. film to be distributed by the Rank organization abroad. In London Krim will see several Rank pictures which will be distributed by Eagle-Lion here. Following discussions with Rank officials, Krim will hold talks with General Film Distributors, Ltd., which will distribute Eagle-Lion's Hollywood films in the British Isles. He will also meet with officials of British Eagle-Lion Distributors, Ltd., which will distribute Eagle-Lion product throughout the rest of the world, except North and South America.

Rank Launches New GB Reorganization

LONDON, March 4.—Under the reorganization of Associated Provincial Picture Houses being effected by J. Arthur Rank, there will be offered in exchange for each one-pound ($4) ordinary share, a three-and-one-half Gaumont-British "A" ordinary five-shilling ($1 share, plus some two shillings and six-pence (45 cents) in cash, Rank announced today.

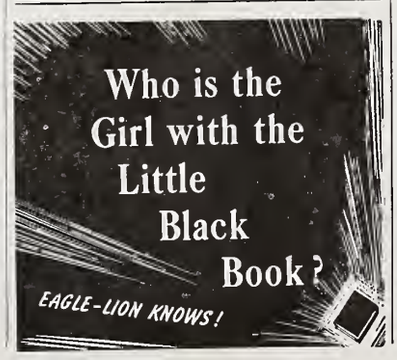
APPH, which is capitalized at 2,800,000 shares of common and 400,000 shares of seven-and-one-half per cent preferred stock, is the first subsidiary to be dealt with under the over-all reorganization of Gaumont-British Picture Co., Ltd.

Atomic Film Showing

Lt. Col. John D. Craig, who handled Army Air Force motion picture activities at the Bikini atomic-bomb tests, last summer, will show "This is the Crossroads" at Town Hall here this morning. A second showing of the picture, described as the only complete film of the tests in natural color with sound track, will be made tomorrow afternoon at 5:30 p.m.

$389,000 for "Duel"

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—In the third month of its local engagement "Duel in the Sun" grossed $40,200 at the Vogue and Fairfax theatres. It has now earned a total of $389,273 in its eight weeks at the Vogue, seven at the Fairfax and two at the Egyptian theatres.



New Rank Company Opens in Portugal

By JOAO DE MORAES PALMERO

LISBON, Feb. 28 (By Airmail).—J. Arthur Rank has moved into Portugal. The formation of the Sociedade Anglo-Portuguesa de Cinema has been announced, backed by the Rank Organization, working together with Portuguese personnel and capital.

The Society already has begun preliminary work in building on Lisbon's main avenue a large theatre equipped with modern technical equipment. Rank's Portuguese organization intends to work in close with Portuguese government officials in all details concerning the future expansion of theatre activities. Rank also intends to introduce 16mm films into this country.

Film circles are wondering just how this new Society fits into the industry here under the new Portuguese film quota law which expressly forbids the exploitation of any theatre activity in this country by foreign interests.

A new production company has been founded, the Produccoes Atlantico Limitada. The company intends to produce and exploit Portuguese, Brazilian and Spanish pictures, as well as engage in exhibition and distribution.

Rules for Columbia

HOLLYWOOD, March 4. — Superior Judge William J. Palmer has ruled that Columbia's contract with director Andre DeToth, entered into in 1943, is a valid agreement, overruling a demurrer filed by DeToth on the ground he had not signed a pact. DeToth, meanwhile, has directed four pictures for other studios, although, Columbia states, each was notified he was under Columbia contract.

'Arch' Premiere in NY

"Arch of Triumph," produced by Enterprise for United Artists release, will have its world premiere in New York, David Lewis, producer of the film, has announced. Lewis said he will leave New York for London on the *Queen Elizabeth* on March 7 to complete arrangements for the British premiere.

UA Concerned

(*Continued from page* 1)

rejected the request of Gradwell L. Sears, UA vice-president in charge of distribution, for a waiver of their contract approval rights in favor of the company. The producers' representatives contended that the waiver is unnecessary.

Company officials believe that if the New York Federal court decree's provisions on competitive bidding are upheld, legal responsibility will have to be fixed if bids accepted by the company subsequently are rejected by a producer's representative. They are convinced that contempt citations could result from such a happening and believe that liability should be determined in advance.

It is understood that the subject was up for discussion at a meeting of the UA board of directors here yesterday. The meeting was adjourned until Friday.

Distribution of Charles Chaplin's new picture, "Monsieur Verdoux," which heretofore was undetermined, will be through United Artists.

Federation Flays Screen 'Moralities'

FRESNO, CAL., March 4.—A resolution was presented before the California Federation of Women's Clubs, protesting profanity and lewdness on the screen. Backing the resolution are the drama sections of approximately 800 clubs.

Final action on the resolution was delayed on the advice of Hulda McGinn, legislative chairman for the State Federation, and legislative representative for theatres.

Cite 'Best Years'

Samuel Goldwyn's RKO Radio-released "The Best Years of Our Lives" will receive the Foreign Language Press Film Critics Circle award as the best picture of 1946, at ceremonies to be broadcast over station WNYC tonight. On behalf of Goldwyn, Robert E. Sherwood, who wrote the screenplay, will accept the scroll.

'Years' Advance Sale Big

PITTSBURGH, March 4.—An advance sale of $16,500 for the four-a-day reserved performance policy for Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" has been counted by the Fulton Theatre here in a single day. The picture will open tomorrow.

New Italian Film Here

"Miracle of Monte Cassino," Italian-produced feature, in 10-reels, and three years in the making, is now in New York and Famous International Film Corp. will distribute it, with English subtitles.

Newton to Donahue, Coe

Howard W. Newton, for the past eight years vice-president and copy director of J. M. Mathes, Inc., has resigned to join Donahue and Coe, New York advertising agency, in the same capacity.

Friedlander Services

David W. Friedlander, manager of Loew's 42nd Street Theatre, here, who died of a heart attack in his office at the theatre Sunday afternoon, will be buried today with services to be read at the Riverside Funeral Parlor. Friedlander was associated with Loew's for 36 years. He is survived by the widow, Hannah, and two children, Evelyn Lopez and Bernard J.

Mel De Lay, 47

HOLLYWOOD, March 4. — Mel De Lay, 47, an associate producer for Sam Katzman for the past four years, collapsed on a location set at Saugus yesterday morning and died before arrival at Newhall Hospital. De Lay was in the industry since 1923 as an actor, director and production manager. His widow, mother, two brothers and three sisters survive.

Malcolm Mollan, 81

HARTFORD, March 4.—Malcolm Mollan, 81, retired editor of the *Manchester (Conn.) Herald* who was once associated with 20th Century-Fox in New York, died at his home in Waterford.

Rites Held for Conner

PHILADELPHIA, March 4.—Funeral services were held here today for Warren Conner, 56, Altec district manager in Cincinnati, who died in that city last Friday. His widow, Mrs. Bertha Conner, survived.

TO BOOST YOUR BOX OFFICE TAKE—

STEP UP the Quality of Your Picture!

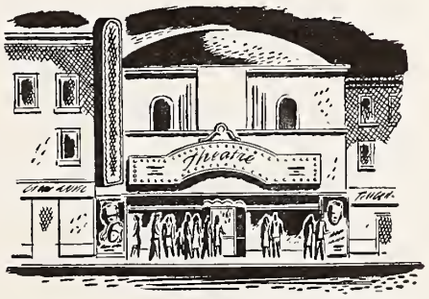
SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITORS know that movie-goers appreciate top-quality high intensity carbon arc projection. For it makes the picture brighter, sharper in detail—with perfectly balanced color. It brings customers back again and again.

So . . . *no matter how good it is now* . . . you'll find it pays to step up the quality of your projection . . . and here's how it can be done!

For Smaller Theatres—

With One-Kilowatt High Intensity Projection, clear-cut black-and-white images and true color reproduction are yours at the cost of only a couple of admissions a day.

For Medium-Sized Theatres—



Larger screens and longer throws require "Suprex" Carbon High Intensity Projection for proper screen brightness and color. Ideal for medium-sized houses, this type of projection is definitely economical.

For the Largest Theatres—

Super High Intensity—the finest projection available. Greater depth, sharper definition, higher screen brightness and full richer color are the qualities that set this projection apart from all others.

For more details on stepping up the quality of your projection, get in touch with National Carbon Company, Inc.—Dept. MP.

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Johnston Asks

(*Continued from page* 1)

showing of American films. Also the *Daily Worker* constantly criticises the motion picture industry. The Communist tactics seem to be to slow down the film industry," Johnston said.

He told the committee that it is the duty of Congress to rid the country of Communists. He said Communists are nothing more than enemy agents and recommended that the committee approve legislation preventing a known Red from serving as an officer of any labor union.

Johnston expressed the belief that the jurisdictional dispute in Hollywood could have been avoided if a mediator had been appointed with authority to enforce his decision. "A cooling off period is actually a heating up period," he commented in opposition to that practice.

Johnston cautioned that the government should be taken out of collective bargaining as much as possible.

Indiana Censorship

(*Continued from page* 1)

cies can be made to see the gravity of the problem and voluntarily cooperate in meeting it."

The so-called Anti-ASCAP bill hit a snag in the Senate today when the chamber refused an attempt to recall a conference report which killed an amendment excluding radio stations from the bill's provisions. It is expected that the Senate will now reassign the bill to conference.

Century Policy

(*Continued from page* 1)

that henceforth, where "reasonable doubt" exists, the theatre manager will consult with a district manager in a review of Century's single-feature experiments.

Attended by 60 department heads, district managers and theatre managers, the forum also resulted in the announcement that Century will study the revamping of its booking policy on short subjects with an eye to creating "a more intelligent, all-around show." In addition, Century will enlarge its newspaper advertising budget, with special emphasis placed on its newly-established foreign film theatre, the Vogue, in Brooklyn. The increase will also provide for listings of the entire circuit in weekend editions, according to Ed Schreiber, director of advertising-publicity.

Reject Print Cut

(*Continued from page* 1)

about by England's recent power ban, has rejected a suggestion made by the Kinematograph Renters Society for a cutdown of release prints. The CEA maintains that releases are their "life blood."

Meanwhile, the CEA has propounded a conservation plan for government consideration, under which newsreels would be required to save 360,000 feet of raw stock weekly, the studios 250,000, and the balance of 900,000 to be saved by the government from its weekly usage of 2,500,000 feet.

A. M. P. A. Salutes the Fan Magazine Press
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THURSDAY, MARCH 6 — 12:30 NOON

Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street

SPEAKERS:

GEORGE T. DELACORTE, President, Dell Publications
PAUL HUNTER, Publisher, Liberty Magazines

CURTIS MITCHELL, Ad-Publicity Director, Paramount Pictures, Guest-Member, M.C.

RUTGERS NEILSON, President, Presiding

Extra Added Attraction — Welcome Celebration to:

MAURICE CHEVALIER

The Great International Star—Upon His Return to the U. S. A.!

LIMITED SEATING CAPACITY. MAKE RESERVATIONS AT ONCE TO ABE DASH, FILM DAILY, BY MAIL OR PHONE.

MEMBERS **$2.00**
GUESTS **$2.50**

Ending Pools

(*Continued from page* 1)

all five companies are understood to have started discussions concerning pools with the Skouras and United Artists circuits.

Last of Paramount's pools with codefendants in the anti-trust suit was the one involving Fox West Coast Theatres, dissolution of which was reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 26. Amplifying yesterday on that deal, Leonard H. Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, reported that the company will take over the Paramount in San Francisco on March 25, followed by the St. Francis there on the 26th and the State on the 27th. These three houses will be placed under the management of Jerry Zigmond, heretofore executive assistant to Edward L. Hyman, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp.

Goldenson and Hyman will leave here today for conferences in San Francisco and Los Angeles, followed by Zigmond, Joseph Deitch and Eugene Street. Robert Weitman left on Monday. These home office executives will work out plans for "a resurgence of aggressive showmanship" in the Coast situations, according to the Paramount theatre chief.

Final form of the dissolution of pools involving the Skouras Theatre Corp. may not be determined for some time, a spokesman for that company said yesterday. The Department of Justice, in its trial brief, said Skouras had eight pools with Loew's, 11 with RKO, eight with Warners and one with Paramount. The United Artists Theatre Circuit, according to the government, has four with 20th Century-Fox affiliates, four with Loew's and three with Paramount.

Kodak Stock Split

(*Continued from page* 1)

J., on April 29, specifically provide that:

The present 2,500,000 shares of authorized common stock without par value would be increased to 20,000,000 shares of $10 par value; the 2,488,242 issued shares of common without par value would be split—five shares for each one share now held—into 12,441,210 shares of $10 par; the present relative voting rights between common and preferred shares would be preserved.

The directors emphasized that the proposed split would not result in a stock dividend but that it is strictly a split-up of shares. In other words, by this split each share of common stock would be divided into five shares of common having a total book value exactly the same as the book value of the single share before such split.

Eastman Reports Record Sales and Profit in '46

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 4.—Eastman Kodak's annual report states that 1946 saw record sales and net profit "for a year in which operations were not significantly affected by war business." Sales are placed at $274,703,448, and net profit at $35,691,318. Continued full capacity operation is predicted for 1947.

Independents 'Balk' At Gov't-Film Plan

Allied States, the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Exhibitors and the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations have evidenced they will not go along with the nine other groups on the proposed program to expedite the handling of approved Government films, according to Si Fabian who reports that the three have yet to be heard from although the proposition was put to them last November.

The proposal for a 12-man film coordinating committee has the indorsement of the following, listed along with their nominee for representative: American Theatres Association, Si Fabian; Conference of Southern Associations, R. W. Wilby; Independent Theatre Owners Association, Harry Brandt; Motion Picture Association, Francis Harmon; Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, Herman Levy; National Distributors Committee, Thomas J. Connors; Newsreels, Michael Clofine; Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, Donald Nelson; Trade Press, Ben Shlyen.

RKO Pathe Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

partment's international motion picture division.

Short subjects recently completed for the Government agency include "Journey Into Medicine," by Willard Van Dyke's Associated Films, and "Hurricane Circuit," made by Scofield Productions. The latter was made with the cooperation of the Army, Navy and U. S. Weather Bureau.

The Department's production program for overseas distribution is expected to pass 100 reels by the end of the fiscal year, on July 1, MacFadden said, adding that there are now 70 reels in release, playing to a monthly audience of 7,500,000. The program is designed to give foreign peoples information on the American way of life.

Local Taxes

(*Continued from page* 1)

Assemblyman Wilson of Yonkers today introduced a measure authorizing that city to impose, by local law, a tax not exceeding one cent on each five cents or fraction thereof paid for admission to any amusement in Yonkers. This tax would be in addition to any other taxes. It is the first measure empowering a specific New York city to levy an amusement tax.

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Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Of three new features at first-run houses here, "Boomerang" and "The Red House" divided the cream of the business. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 5:

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER (Favorite Films) and ONE MILLION B.C. (Favorite Films)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,800. (Average: $8,900)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $15,500.

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,500)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,500. (Average: $19,000)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN ($1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $14,000)

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER (Favorite Films) and ONE MILLION B.C. (Favorite Films)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $7,700)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $16,000.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.00-$1.50) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,600)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gros: $11,000. (Average: $12,700)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,200. (Average: $8,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $23,900. (Average: $23,700)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—IRIS (768) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $11,000)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $26,200)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $24,600)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,000)

THE RED HOUSE (UA-Thalia)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,100)

THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $15,000)

THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,800)

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER (Favorite Films) and ONE MILLION B.C. (Favorite Films)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,900. (Average: $23,100)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 6th week. Gross: $25,500.

CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.) — PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $24,100)

CALIFORNIA (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $15,400)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,300)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,100)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,500)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) ($1.00-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $15,200. (Average: $8,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $21,600)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,100)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,700)

CHICAGO

Business here has been about average. Estimated reecipts for the week ending March 5-6:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 10th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c). On stage: Connee Boswell and Dean Murphy, 2nd week. Gross: $55,000. (Average: $62,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U-I)—GARRICK (1,000) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,000)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (95c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $18,000)

THE CHASE (UA)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c). On stage: "Showtime of 1947," musical revue. Gross: $50,000. (Average: $48,000)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.) — PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c). Gross: $23,000. (Average: $23,000)

THE BOWERY (20th-Fox reissue) and STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE (20th-Fox reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $30,000)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c) 6th week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $27,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 11th week. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $28,000)

PHILADELPHIA

The Earle, with Lionel Hampton on stage and "The Thirteenth Hour" on the screen, is competing for top honors with the Stanley, where "The Jolson Story" is playing. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4-6:

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $24,800. (Average: $13,800)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $6,600)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $25,600. (Average: $21,000)

THE THIRTEENTH HOUR (Col.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Lionel Hampton. Gross: $42,000. (Average, for 7 days: $31,700)

THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $25,000)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $24,000)

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—KARLTON (1,000) 50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $9,500)

TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,200)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $29,500)

HENRY V (UA)—PIX (500) ($1.30-$1.95-$2.60) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $10,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $48,500. (Average: $27,000)

THE FABULOUS DORSEYS (UA)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $12,700)

PITTSBURGH

Business in general has been spotty, but "The Jolson Story" is holding up well at the J. P. Harris. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 6:

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON (20th-Fox)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,700)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $11,000)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $25,000)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on moveover from Penn. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,500)

ALLEGHENY UPRISING (RKO Radio reissue) and SEA DEVILS (RKO Radio reissue)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $3,200)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $25,000)

THE FABULOUS DORSEYS (UA)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,000)

ST. LOUIS

"It's a Wonderful Life" got off to a good start at the Ambassador, but most other grosses dipped with the mercury. A snowstorm over the weekend was harmful. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 5:

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $18,000)

CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and SWAMP FIRE (Para.)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $20,000. (Average: $20,000)

THE WICKED LADY (U-I) and WILD WEST (PRC)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S STATE (50c-60c-75c) 4th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $20,000)

ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,500)

GUNGA DIN (RKO Radio reissue) and A LADY TAKES A CHANCE (RKO Radio reissue)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)

CLEVELAND

Although stormy weather handicapped business generally, "Lady in the Lake" held up well in its second week. "The Stone Flower" became the first foreign film to run ahead of U. S. product in popularity here. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 5-6:

DANIEL BOONE (Imperial) — LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,000)

THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI (UA) — LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. World premiere with personal appearance of Angela Landbury on opening night. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $23,800)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M) LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,500)

THE STONE FLOWER (Artkino) — LOWER MALL (563) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $2,500)

SWELL GUY (U-I)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500.

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $21,400)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $22,600)

THE MAN I LOVE (WB) — WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,650)

(Continued on following page)

Key City Grosses

(Continued from preceding page)

CINCINNATI

Most current bills are turning in good figures, although one of the heaviest snows of the winter somewhat hampered weekend attendance. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4-7:

SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-65c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Stage: Bob Crosby and orchestra, plus acts. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $30,000)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 4th week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $10,000)
JUNGLE MAN (PRC reissue) and SWAMP WOMAN (PRC reissue)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,100. (Average: $1,100)
BEDELIA (PRC)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $8,000)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,500)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, following an initial week at the Albee and a move-over week at the Shubert. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $15,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week on a move-over after two weeks at the Grand. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business shows a slight improvement despite bad weather over the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4-5:

BLACK ANGEL (U-I)—CIRCLE (2,800) (46c-74c) 7 days. Clyde McCoy orchestra and Micheal O'Shea on stage. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $20,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. Average: $15,800)
HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC) and WILD BEAUTY (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)
LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,400)
MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Move-over from Indiana. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,700)

KANSAS CITY

Theatre attendance fell off sharply as the temperature dropped to eight above zero, accompanied by the first heavy snow of the season. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 4-6:

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $8,000)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $1,500. (Average: $1,750)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and THE CHASE (UA)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and BLONDE FOR A DAY (PRC)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $10,000)
THE THRILL OF BRAZIL (Col.) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days, with stage show. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,000)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

Attendance at all theatres has been above average, with some holdovers gaining in favoritism. The weather has been clear and moderately cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 6:

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $7,800)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $15,900. (Average: $13,600)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, with vaudeville. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,700)
THE ADVENTURES OF MARCO POLO (Film Classics)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,600)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $4,800)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,900)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,300)

TORONTO

Three theatres unfolded new features with substantial result, helped by the arrival of more balmy weather. Three other theatres continued their programs for a second week. Meanwhile, pro hockey drew big crowds for chief opposition. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 6-7:

THE VERDICT (WB) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—EGLINTON (1,080) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,800)
SISTER KENNY (RKO Radio)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $14,300)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $16,300. (Average: $13,800)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $17,300. (Average: $14,800)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,400. (Average: $11,900)
THE VERDICT (WB) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,500)

Reviews

"The Guilt of Janet Ames"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, March 4

IN all the long succession of psychiatricals there has been none to equal this striking presentation of Rosalind Russell and Melvyn Douglas as parties of the first part and second part in a story you need not be a Freudian to enjoy fully and completely. It is a fine and different variety of picture, quite psychiatric in fundamentals, and yet in a sheer demonstration of production versatility it stops dead in its tracks about three-fourths of the way through to kid the whole psychiatric trend to the point of death. It straightens out again after that hilarious interlude and goes on to a finish which makes other excursions into the realm of the psychological seem amateurish by comparison. In all the places where product of merit clicks, this attraction figures to be a solid hit.

The scene of the screenplay, by Louella MacFarlane, Allen Rivkin and Devery Freeman, from a story by Lenore Coffee, is New York City, and the story opens with Miss Russell, a young war widow, walking in front of a truck. In the hospital, where she is identified by Douglas, an alcoholic reporter and one of the five men whose names are found on a slip of paper in her effects, it is found that she has no physical injury, yet cannot walk. Douglas, seeing the list of names, realizes she has set out to locate the men in her dead husband's Army company whose lives were saved by him at the sacrifice of his own, and he undertakes to overcome her inability to walk by a process of practical psychoanalysis and direct suggestion. One by one he describes to her the lives of the other men on the list, making each seem well worth the dead man's sacrifice, and finally describing himself as a distinguished and wealthy journalist. When she finds, then, that she can walk, he flees, returning to a bar and starting to drink, but she follows him and they work out an ending neither commonplace nor idyllic, after he has explained that he lied to her about all five of the men she sought.

Resourcefulness, novelty and free imagination are employed in the five descriptions of the men whose lives the heroine's husband saved by giving his own, and in one of these, Sid Caesar, as a night club entertainer, does a monologue about psychiatric pictures that stands out as a screamingly funny piece of business. Among the other players, all admirably cast, are Betsy Blair, Nina Foch, Charles Cane, Harry Von Zell, Bruce Barber, Arthur Space, Richard Benedict and Frank Orth. Direction is by Henry Levin, who handles a greatly varied and always complex wealth of subject material with immense skill.

Running time, 81 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, in March.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Framed"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, March 4

SHOWMEN whose customers have been asking when Glenn Ford is coming back to give them some more of what he dished out in "Gilda" can tell them that now is the time. As in that picture, he enters this one as a resolute young man with lightning in his fists and something darker than that in his background, and here again he falls in love with a gal whose ways are no straighter and narrower than his own, in this case a gal more kindly disposed toward murder and so on than any seen on the screen since "The Postman Always Rings Twice," if then. It is hot, sock melodrama, tightly built and plentifully supplied with violence, quite strictly for audiences adult enough to take crime in the raw and sin on the side without blinking.

The screenplay, by Ben Maddow, from a story by Jack Patrick, brings Ford hurtling into an unnamed Southern California town on a truck with no brakes. Arrested for traffic violations, he is bailed out by a blonde waitress who finances him through a drunk and rents him a room. The waitress, played with striking ability by Janis Carter, really is setting him up to be knocked off in an automobile owned by her pal, a bank official who has filched $250,000 and placed it in her safety deposit box, and to be mistaken for the banker, with whom she is to go elsewhere and spend the money. But it is a long time before Ford finds this out and upsets the gal's plans, she having upset the banker's plans meanwhile by killing him instead of Ford. Finally Ford, who has fallen in love with the gal during all this, decides she is a bit too lethal for him and turns her in, but a lot of things have taken place before this to leave the audience in doubt up to the last possible moment about what he is going to do.

The production is by Jules Schermer, the direction by Richard Wallace, and both gentlemen rate high mention for the professional quality of the job. Players, in addition to those already named, are Edgar Buchanan, Barry Sullivan, Karen Morley, Jim Bannon, Sid Tomack, Barbara Wooddell and Paul E. Burns.

Running time, 82 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, in March.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

25th Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

Hammons, the late J. D. Williams, the late Carl Laemmle, Courtland Smith, the late Myron Selznick and Winfield Sheehan and William E. Atkinson.

Hays had been Postmaster General of the U. S. and chairman of the Republican National Committee, active for years in national politics and many more years in state politics in his native Indiana. His original law firm still is doing business at the old stand in Sullivan.

Men in addition to those named above who helped to persuade Hays to forsake the political arena for the celluloid one included: Nicholas and Joseph M. Schenck, J. Robert Rubin, E. J. Ludvigh, Lewis J. Selznick, John M. Quinn and Frank J. Godsol.

As is generally known, Hays' immediate mission was to save the motion picture from state and national censorship in consequence of some motion pictures and some doings of members of the production community. The mission was well accomplished in the early years and the accomplishment preserved in subsequent years with the help of the Production Code.

Hays at present is making his annual winter visit to the Coast.

N. Y. Decision

(Continued from page 1)

the independent producer.

The producer of "Arch of Triumph," which, he said, costs a little over $4,000,000, said that while he is not too familiar with the New York decree, other producers, such as Samuel Goldwyn, have demonstrated that theatre leasing is feasible. Enterprise is known to be planning the rental of theatre situations for "Arch," particularly in New York where the film will have its premiere.

Lewis and Erich Maria Remarque, author of "Arch," were the guests of Loew's International, which will distribute the film abroad, at a reception here yesterday. Lewis reported he will leave for England on Friday to arrange for production of a film there, employing mainly British performers.

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 45 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Dip in Gross Level at Key City Houses

Storms Hit First-Run Business in February

Heavy snows, reaching blizzard proportions in many parts of the country, hampered business at key-city first runs during last month, leaving the weekly average gross per theatre in some 170 situations at $17,129, according to reports from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents. The January average stood at $18,867 but included, of course, the annual boost from New Year's Eve midnight shows.

As in January, this year's February average also ran slightly below that of Feb., 1946, when a level of $17,761 was maintained.

"The Jolson Story" appeared most often as the box-office leader in the correspondents' reports last month but received strong competition from "Till the Clouds Roll By," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "13 Rue

(*Continued on page 4*)

Apr. 2 Set for Dual Trust Suit Answers

CHICAGO, March 5.—Defendants in the $2,650,000 treble damage anti-trust suit filed by Middle States Corp. and the Riverside Operating Co., on behalf of the Minnesota Theatre, Minneapolis, and the Riverside, Milwaukee, have been given until April 2, to file answers.

Defendants are nine distributors, and, in addition, in the Minneapolis case, the Minnesota Amusement Co. is also named as a defendant.

Riverside and Middle States joined in one suit seeking damages said to

(*Continued on page 4*)

Johnston to Coast Before Annual Meet

WASHINGTON, March 5. — Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, is scheduled to leave for the Coast at the weekend for meetings with the Association of Motion Picture Producers and to attend the Academy Awards function on March 13. He will be back East in time to attend the MPA annual meeting in New York on March 31. His annual report to the meeting is now in preparation.

M-G-M Deals Set in Field

Determination of the best bids submitted by theatremen under the New York Federal Court's industry decree is to be made largely in the field with the home office to give, initially, perfunctory approval of offers recommended, M-G-M has advised branch, district and division sales managers, a New York executive of the company said here yesterday.

He reasoned that it would be physically impossible for the New York office to weigh the particulars in every deal proposed by the bidders, particularly when the program is fully underway.

Some time back, 20th Century-Fox, in a notice to branch managers on the clearance provisions of the decree, said "the responsibility for the correct decision is upon you." And in discussing

(*Continued on page 2*)

Seeks Producers' Accord on Bidding

RKO Radio has undertaken a review of its arrangements with independent producers to determine who has the final voice in determining the best bid under the new competitive bidding system, a company spokesman indicated yesterday.

It was reported that the question of whether the independent producer, the distributor, or both, is legally responsible for competitive bidding in practice, remains unsettled at RKO, although, in the spokesman's view, the distributing company which conducts negotiations is definitely liable and

(*Continued on page 4*)

91% Influenced by Price Cut: Para.

The Paramount Theatre here states that in a poll conducted since the house lowered its admission price to 55 cents from opening to one o'clock, 91 per cent of the patrons queried said the reduction influenced their attending the theatre. The theatre claims an attendance of 45,000 during that time over a period of six days as compared with an average of under 23,000 for a like period.

Kelly Back to UA 'In a Few Weeks'

Arthur W. Kelly, president of General Motion Picture Corp., who returned to New York yesterday on the *SS Queen Elizabeth* after a survey of studio facilities in France and Italy for production of films there in association with Edward Small, will join United Artists as a vice-president "within a few weeks." Confirmation of Kelly's projected re-association with UA, indicated last Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, came from Charles Schwartz, of Schwartz and Frohlich. Kelly was previously a UA vice-president in charge of foreign distribution.

Unable to describe what his responsibilities would be, Kelly added that he was also not in a position to clarify plans with regard to the company he now heads.

Intimating that he would submit to Small a favorable report on the possibilities of undertaking production in France and Italy, Kelly said that after

(*Continued on page 4*)

ATA Set for Year Ahead, Despite Losing Circuits

New Ticket System On a Rental Basis

The newly-developed Stub Rod Control theatre ticket collection box, invented by Henry Randel, Paramount's New York branch manager, and Irving Dashkin, operator of the Savoy Theatre, Jamaica, L. I., will be marketed to exhibitors on a rental basis, the inventors disclose here.

Although financial support from the RKO and Loew circuits will end when the American Theatres Association completes its initial fiscal year, on April 1, ATA executives see little or no difficulty ahead in carrying their program adequately through another year on the support which will remain, a spokesman for the organization said here yesterday.

Number of theatres paying ATA dues will be reduced from 7,100 to 6,800 when financing from the two circuits ends, thus cutting down the

(*Continued on page 4*)

N.Y. Owners Will Fight Proposed Tax

Gov. Dewey Asks for Local Autonomy for New Levies

New York City's exhibitors are preparing to launch a full scale attack against Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's proposal of yesterday that the state legislature empower the city to levy an amusement admission tax of five per cent. Yesterday, MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported that a Dewey recommendation of that nature was impending.

Although New York's Mayor William O'Dwyer and City Controller Lazarus Joseph have given reassurances in the past that they are not in favor of a city tax on theatre admissions, exhibitors here will strive to "nip the tax threat in the bud" in the legislature in Albany, according to exhibitor organization spokesmen here.

It is felt that some cities and towns would take advantage of special taxing powers while others would not, and as a result theatres in affected

(*Continued on page 2*)

Dope Films Scored By Publisher's Wife

ATLANTIC CITY, March 5.—So-called killer-diller radio programs and the vulgarization of life allegedly conveyed by 90 per cent of the films are a handicap to the moral, mental and emotional development of American childhood, Mrs. Eugene Meyer, wife of the owner of the Washington *Post*, declared tonight in an address before the eighth general session of the American Association of School Administrators here.

"Movie magnates show a callous indifference to the nation's welfare,"

(*Continued on page 2*)

Mason Seeks Court Rule on Rose 'Deal'

When David Rose, independent producer who filed a $1,760,000 suit last Dec. 19 against James Mason for alleged breach of contract, stepped off the gangplank of the *SS Queen Elizabeth* on his arrival here yesterday, he was handed a summons and complaint in connection with a proceeding instituted by Mason for a declaratory

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, is scheduled to leave for the Coast today or tomorrow. He is also slated for a trip to South America later this month.

•

BERNARD R. GOODMAN, supervisor of exchanges for Warner Bros., and HERMAN GOLDBERG, purchasing agent, will leave here Monday for Charlotte and Atlanta.

•

GLENDON ALLVINE, executive secretary of the Eastern Public Information Committee, who is touring the South, will return here next Wednesday.

•

GLENN IRETON, Warner Bros. field public relations representative for Canada, will return to Toronto today from New York.

•

LIGE BRIEN, Eagle-Lion exploiteer, returned to New York yesterday from Philadelphia.

•

NAT WOLF, Warner circuit zone manager for Cleveland, is celebrating his 15th anniversary with the circuit.

•

JACK LEVIN, managing director of Confidential Reports, returned to New York yesterday from Chicago.

Technicolor Reward

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Technicolor Corp. has offered $2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailants who attacked Claire McNeill, Technicolor employee, on leaving the plant yesterday morning.

MGM Bids Set in Field

(Continued from page 1)

bidding, the company directed that all propositions must be approved by the division sales manager.

M-G-M encountered a particularly difficult situation in Savannah where one exhibitor offered a $5,000 guarantee for a seven-day booking and another bid $5,250 for the same picture but for 10 days. These were made against 40 and 41 per cent, respectively, of grosses which the company knew were beyond the reach of the houses.

Owners To Fight Tax

(Continued from page 1)

communities stand to lose business to theatres in adjacent unaffected communities; hence, notwithstanding tax opposition stands taken by individual city officials theatre business at various points stands to suffer, it is held in exhibitor circles here.

It is expected that organized exhibitor drives here against the legislature's acting on the Dewey recommendation will get underway immediately. The legislature is scheduled to adjourn before the month ends.

Grant Pictures to Start on May 15

CHICAGO, March 5.—Marshall Grant Pictures, Inc., new film-producing firm set up by a group of Chicago businessmen, will launch production of its first, "Moonrise," about May 15, and will adhere to a three-picture-a-year schedule with each film to be budgeted at around $2,000,000, the company's board chairman, William D. Saltiel, discloses. William A. Wellman will direct "Moonrise," and E. H. Griffith, Arthur Lubin and John Rawlins are under option for other pictures scheduled, one of which will be "The Loop," which will attempt to counter-attack the overemphasized gangster and sensational phases of Chicago heretofore played up on the screen, Saltiel said.

Charles F. Haas, former Universal producer-director, has been named Grant's vice-president. Details on the company's plans, backers and other officers appeared in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Tuesday. Former Universal producer-director Marshall Grant is president of the new company.

Republic Signs with Feldman for Three

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Republic Pictures has signed with Charles K. Feldman Group Productions for a minimum of three pictures employing Feldman players, directors and stories. Lewis Milestone will produce and direct "The Red Pony" in Technicolor as the first. Ben Hecht's "Shadow" will be the second.

AMPA Luncheon Today

Curtis V. Mitchell, Paramount advertising-publicity director, will be toastmaster; George T. Delacorte, president of Dell Publications, and Paul Hunter, president of Liberty Magazines, will be the principal speakers, and Maurice Chevalier will be guest of honor at the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers luncheon-meeting to be held at the Town Hall Club, here, today. Rutgers Neilson is president of AMPA.

Picketing in 3rd Week

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5.—Picketing of the Fillmore Theatre by negroes is in its third week. The disagreement has no labor difficulty origin, the house being 100 per cent union, but hinges entirely on the demand by negroes that there be 50 per cent negro help employed.

George Nasser, owner and general manager of the house, has referred arbitrators directly to the union, through which he says all employees are hired.

Columbia Withdraws

MEXICO CITY, March 5.—Columbia has cancelled a 10-picture contract with the Tepeyac studio, operated by Theodore and Albert Gildred following collapse of a studio roof that killed three workmen and injured 19 others. A loss of confidence in the studio's physical security is said to have inspired Columbia's action. The pictures will be made in other Mexican studios.

AMPP Fetes Price At Luncheon Today

Hollywood, March 5.—A farewell luncheon to Byron Price will be given by Association of Motion Picture Producers board members and other officials tomorrow at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Price will leave here on March 15th to assume his new duties as U. N. assistant secretary-general.

U.S. Film Program Is Hit by Staff Cuts

Cuts in personnel made recently throughout the U. S. State Department's Office of Information and Cultural Affairs have resulted in temporary curtailment of some operations of the international motion picture division here, it is understood. Chief delay is being experienced in obtaining new material for adaptation and in re-editing, although the production program has not been impeded.

The staff curtailment, according to a Department spokesman, has no connection with budget hearings now going on in Congress.

Army Cites de Rochemont

March of Time producer Richard de Rochemont and MOT directors Rita Vandivert and Victor Jurgens were among a group of war correspondents given awards by the War Department for services overseas and presented with campaign ribbons by Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, commander of the U. S. First Army, at the Overseas Press Club Dinner which was held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here.

Ind. ASCAP Bill Amended

INDIANAPOLIS, March 5.—A new conference report on the so-called Anti-ASCAP bill, restoring the amendment exempting radio stations from its provisions, was approved in the House today. The measure will be up for vote in the Senate tomorrow.

Friedman Speaks Today

Chester Friedman, editor of the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald*, will address a Lion's Club luncheon-meeting today at the Roger Smith Hotel in White Plains, N. Y. on "The Theatre's Place in the Community Today and the Manager's in Business and Civic Affairs."

Clinical Unit Begun

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Motion Picture Relief Fund president Jean Hersholt has announced the start of construction on a $500,000 clinical unit at the Motion Picture Country House. The unit will double hospitalization facilities.

W. P. Mullen to CBS

William P. Mullen has joined Columbia Broadcasting's spot-sales division as an account executive in New York.

Creditors of Hirliman Firms Offered 32½%

Unsecured creditors of International Theatrical and Television Corp. and Film-Tel, Inc., will receive 32½ per cent of their claims if a plan tentatively agreed upon with debtors is finally approved, it was announced by Referee Irvin Kurtz in Federal District Court here yesterday. Kurtz signed an order granting the companies the right to offer a joint amended plan to their creditors.

The companies, Kurtz said, report being in good financial condition and that they have been able to make full payment of claims of their secured creditors, Standard Factors Corp. and Continental Bank and Trust Co. George Hirliman is president of both firms.

Svirnoff, Marcus Invade Iowa, Buy 2

MILWAUKEE, March 5.—Svirnoff and Marcus circuit, heretofore confining its theatre activities to Wisconsin, has invaded Iowa with the purchase of the Odeon and Casino theatres at Marshalltown. S. and M. will take possession on March 15.

Jutkovitz Services

Services for Alexander Jutkovitz, 59, co-owner of the Park Theatre at Far Rockaway and partner for 25 years with RKO Theatres in ownership of the Columbia and Strand there, will be held at the Jewish Center, Far Rockaway, at noon today. Jutkovitz died on Tuesday of a heart attack in Cleveland. He is survived by a brother, Isador.

Services for Jenkins

Services for Felix A. Jenkins, 57, secretary of 20th Century-Fox and a member of the board of directors, who died Tuesday, will be held at 3:30 P.M. tomorrow at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Montclair, N. J.

New Crouch Feature

"Disc Jockey" is the title of a musical feature which William Forrest Crouch will produce and direct at Film Craft Studios in New York, starting about June 1, on a screenplay by Charles Curran.

Dope Films Scored

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Meyer said. "Only recently the largest combination of motion picture magnates deliberately modified their own code against the use of the narcotic theme in order to exploit that dangerous and suggestive field for the benefit of our children."

"So notorious have our films become the world over," Mrs. Meyer continued, "that they are endangering our foreign relations. The strangle hold which these powerful moving picture magnates have upon the domestic and foreign market is a worldwide cultural menace. It is an abuse of free enterprise when any group can betray the welfare of the American people for profit, and jeopardize our good name and our good relations with foreign countries."

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Gross Level Takes Dip

(*Continued from page* 1)

Madeleine" and "Sinbad the Salior."

Also coming through as weekly leaders in a number of situations were: "Open City," "California," "Lady in the Lake," "Dead Reckoning," "Strange Voyage," "San Quentin," "Henry V," "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Angel and the Badman," "The Razor's Edge" and "The Best Years of Our Lives."

Composite key-city box-office reports for 1947 to date, compared with the corresponding weeks of 1946, follow:

1947 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 3-4	167	$3,678,100	$22,024
Jan. 10-11	173	3,363,200	19,440
Jan. 17-18	173	3,007,300	17,383
Jan. 24-25	176	3,043,700	17,294
Jan. 31—Feb. 1	181	3,293,600	18,197
Feb. 7-8	177	3,089,600	17,495
Feb. 14-15	177	2,767,900	15,638
Feb. 21-22	182	3,042,700	16,718
Feb. 28—Mar. 1	150	2,800,300	18,668

1946 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 4-5	142	$3,304,300	$23,270
Jan. 11-12	144	2,940,100	20,417
Jan. 18-19	150	2,706,300	18,040
Jan. 25-26	158	2,800,100	17,722
Feb. 1-2	157	2,227,000	18,390
Feb. 8-9	158	2,798,300	17,756
Feb. 15-16	159	2,755,400	17,330
Feb. 22-23	156	2,638,200	16,918
Mar. 1-2	164	3,106,000	18,939

Seeks Accord

(*Continued from page* 1)

vulnerable to court action in the event of a suit by a disappointed exhibitor-bidder.

On the basis of his assertion that all procedure and differences between RKO and the producers for whom it distributes have been amicably resolved in the past, and the insistence by producers' representatives here that they would insist upon the right to determine the best bed, the signs point to continuation of the policy of review and final authorization by the independent.

Last week distribution representatives of producers releasing through United Artists declined to accede to Gradwell L. Sears' request for a waiver of their bidding approval authority in favor of UA.

It was recalled that Department of Justice interpretations of the New York court decree maintained that while independent producers are not directly bound by the decree because they were not parties to the anti-trust suit, they cannot commit an act declared illegal without placing themselves in a position of being subject to prosecution under the anti-trust laws.

Executives of several of the producers releasing through RKO, which include Walt Disney, Liberty Films Samuel Goldwyn. Argosy and Independent Artists, have indicated that, unpressed by early release dates, they are in a position to "sit back and watch" development of competitive bidding. Liberty's "It's a Wonderful Life!" and Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" have been placed on the block for competitive negotiations wherever requests have come in, and Disney's "Song of the South," which has played most of its bookings already and has received several bids only in the past week from some "limited and smaller" situations, according to a Disney spokesman, comprise the only independent product currently available through RKO. Since Argosy and IA have films in production, Disney and Goldwyn slated to have new product for release after the summer, and Liberty expecting to release "State of the Union" by fall, it appears that these companies are not confronted with any immediate problem concerning bidding and procedure.

New Film - Effects Firm

C. and G. Film-Effects has been established here by Milton M. Gottlieb, a veteran of 25 years in the industry, and Hugo A. Casolaro, formerly of Sound Masters, Inc.

Mason - Rose

(*Continued from page* 1)

judgment in New York Supreme Court.

Rose, who said he expected to remain in New York for a week before going to California, has until March 25 to respond to the charges raised by Mason who is acting through Schwartz and Frohlich, attorneys.

The British actor, now in Princeton, N. J., for try-outs of the stage production, "Bathsheba," in which he and his wife will appear on Broadway, was negotiating last spring with Rose for the formation of a joint film-producing venture on a partnership basis.

Insistent upon his avowed intent to "maintain his position of independence and control over his own destiny" and to be half-owner of any company which produces pictures starring him henceforth, the British actor cites negotiations allegedly conducted by Rose with Paramount under which Mason would receive $100,00 a picture as an advance on 25 per cent of profits after recoupment of twice the production costs by Paramount. The Paramount deal, slated to start next May 1, would have been for 10 pictures extending over five years.

Papers in Rose's suit against Mason reportedly were never served, while Mason has been mentioned as having signed a picture deal with Sir Alexander Korda.

Rose reported that the Odeon circuit which formerly gave 90 per cent of its time to American pictures is now reserving 31 per cent of its time for British product.

Other arrivals on the *Queen Elizabeth* were: Frank Launder, co-producer and director of J. Arthur Rank's "The Adventuress," and George Ivan Smith, associate producer and literary editor of Rank's "This Modern Age" series, who is on a four-months' leave to devote himself to his position as chief of program planning for the United Nations' international radio network.

Kelly in UA

(*Continued from page* 1)

a "very thorough examination" of facilities he came to the conclusion that production is possible, although it would not be 100 per cent efficient. The basic problem hampering smooth production is the replacement of parts worn out during the war years, he observed. Kelly also declared that the French and Italian governments are anxious to have American companies produce in their respective countries.

Mirisch Syndicate Planning Circuit

A New York syndicate headed by Harold J. Mirisch, until recently film buyer here for RKO Theatres, has its sights on the development of a national circuit with negotiations now on for the acquisition of two theatre companies holding six and eight houses, respectively, according to Maurice Maurer, theatre operator for City Investing Co., who figures in the plan.

Trust Suit Answers

(*Continued from page* 1)

have incurred in the operation of the Riverside, asking a total of $1,750,000. In the Minneapolis suit, Middle States alone asks $900,000 for losses allegedly suffered in operating the Minnesota.

Both suits were filed in U. S. District Court here on Jan. 20, by John Mulder and Abraham Brussell, local attorneys, who asked for jury trials. The Minnesota suit was assigned to Judge Michael L. Igoe, known in motion picture circles for his verdicts on the Jackson Park Theatre case. The Riverside suit was handed to Judge Philip L. Sullivan, who is also the judge on the Schoenstadt Circuit's $6,750,000 suit on behalf of its Piccadilly Theatre.

Another Postponement of Schoenstadt Trust Suit

CHICAGO, March 5.—Attorneys for both sides have agreed upon still another postponement on the Schoenstadt Circuit's $6,750,000 triple damage anti-trust suit on behalf of its southside Piccadilly Theatre which was scheduled to get underway before Special Master-in-Chancery Charles A. McDonald tomorrow. According to Aaron Stein of Rosenberg, Stein and Rosenberg, law firm, who is representing the Schoenstadts, the new date will be "in about three weeks or a month."

ATA's Year Ahead

(*Continued from page* 1)

revenue by less than 10 per cent, it was explained. Moreover, RKO and Loew's are expected to return to the association after final settlement of the industry anti-trust suit, having dropped out on what is understood to be a temporary basis when ATA sought to intervene in the case because of widespread exhibitor objections to the competitive bidding system set up by the New York Federal District Court. Of the other three theatre-owning defendants in the suit, National Theatres has remained in the association and many of Paramount's affiliates belong, while Warner Theatres never joined.

Only the problem of obtaining adequate hotel facilities in Washington or Chicago has held up final plans for ATA's forthcoming annual convention, which will take place on a date to be selected between April 19 and May 1, according to the association spokesman.

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'U', Columbia In Move for Bidding Stay

Universal's Application Accepts Single Sales

Universal has applied to the U. S. Supreme Court for a stay of the competitive bidding provisions of the New York Federal District Court's decree, and Columbia is preparing a similar application. The stays, if granted, would exempt these companies from the bidding system, scheduled to become mandatory July 1, at least until after the high court rules on their pending appeals, which is not likely before early next year.

Even if the Columbia and Universal applications are acted upon favorably, four of the remaining six defendants in the suit will be required to sell their films competitively after

(*Continued on page 6*)

Dunn Named PRC Asst. Sales Manager

Harold S. Dunn has been appointed assistant general sales manager of Producers Releasing Corp. by Ralph H. Clark, general sales manager.

Dunn entered the industry in 1920, with Herman Rifkin in Boston. In 1925, he joined Warner's sales department, shifting to the theatre department in 1929 and to the foreign department in 1931.

UK Relaxes Theatre Closing Regulation

London, Mar. 6.—Theatres will be permitted to open weekdays beginning Saturday, between 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M., or between noon and two P.M., to allow children's matinees, tradeshows, press viewings, etc. Heretofore, under the power ban, theatres were closed until four P.M.

With the industry compelled to save 250,000 feet of raw stock weekly, the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association will meet with the newsreels on Tuesday to discuss either further cuts in newsreel footage or temporary cancellation of the reels.

Bidding Requests Often Inadequate

Distributors here are finding a "great many" requests for competitive bidding from theatremen not too familiar with this method of buying product and consequently their petitions are in vague or generalized terms, rather than being specific. One exhibitor, for example, offered M-G-M an unnamed "fabulous sum," as he put it, for "The Yearling."

The majority of non-conforming requests simply express a desire to bid on all product of a certain company.

Fight on N. Y. Tax Bill Seen Futile

ALBANY, N. Y., March 6.—Governor Dewey's program for increased local taxing powers, with permissive levies on amusements, has met an undercurrent of opposition among Republican legislators and outspoken opposition by Democrats here. It is believed, however, that with the Governor behind it, the measure will pass, probably next week.

A theatre official said tonight: "The Governor supports the bill; that's enough to insure passage. Why kid ourselves? It will go through. Of course, legislative adoption would not put any of these taxes in effect. They must be enacted locally. That's

(*Continued on page 6*)

WB to Start Bids in May

First competitive bidding for Warner product will take place early in May, with "The Two Mrs. Carroll's", "Stallion Road" and "Love and Learn" among the earliest pictures to be offered by the company through the new selling method, it is understood.

Following the initial offers, other films are expected to be placed on the competitive market in fairly rapid succession, thus putting Warners on a full bidding basis by July 1, when the system set up by the New York Federal District Court becomes mandatory.

Meanwhile, the company is understood to have completed dissolution of all its pooling agreements except one involving a few theatres in Oklahoma City, with this expected to be ended in the near future.

Bill to Activate Theatre Building

WASHINGTON, March 6.—A new housing measure which does not include authorization to restrict nonresidential building will be introduced in the House by Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott, chairman of the House Banking Committee.

Elimination of present building barriers would result in the construction of an estimated 300 theatres throughout the nation.

Ackery, Wise, Bradley Selected Top Showmen

This year, for the first time since the start of the "Quigley Annual Showmanship Awards," the Silver Grand Award has gone outside the United States. The winner: Ivan Ackery, manager of the Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver, B. C., one of the houses in the Famous Players' Canadian circuit. The other winners, who this week also were designated "top showmen" by a 42-man board of judges, are Nate Wise, who received the Bronze Grand Award for his campaigns in Cincinnati, where he is publicity manager for RKO Theatres, and Frank Bradley, who was presented with the special Overseas Plaque for his campaigns in Sheffield, England, where he manages the Regent

(*Continued on page 6*)

AAF Jack Warner Citation Mar. 14

Washington, Mar. 6.—The office of the Commanding General of the U. S. Army Air Forces has sent to film leaders invitations to attend a ceremony at which the Medal of Merit will be awarded in the name of the President to Jack L. Warner, Warner Brothers production vice-president, to be presented by General of the Army H. H. Arnold on March 14 at March Field, Riverside, Cal.

Film Salesmen Move in On Labor Front

Ask Distributors to Talk Wages and Other Items

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO, March 6.—Representatives of motion picture salesmen of the U. S. have, after repeated reports of contemplated action, heard down through the years, finally and suddenly, appeared on the film labor scene.

David Benzor, Milwaukee attorney and recently-appointed counsel and labor negotiator for the Colosseum of Motion Picture Salesman of America, has sent letters to New York home offices of all distributors requesting them to sit down and bargain with his organization, which represents film salesmen in many parts of the country.

To date, Benzor has received re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Selznick Board Is Headed by Kramer

Milton A. Kramer has become executive vice-president and chairman of the board of the Selznick Releasing Organization, Neil Agnew, SRO president disclosed here yesterday.

Kramer, of the New York law firm of Paine, Kramer and Marx, until recently was a member of the board of United Artists, from which he resigned to assume his new position.

Kramer succeeds Ernest L. Scanlon, executive vice-president of Vanguard Films, as chairman of the board of SRO. Scanlon, who remains on the SRO board, will devote himself mainly to Vanguard fiscal affairs.

Oklahoma Owners In Anti-Tax Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 6.—About 124 Oklahoma exhibitors, representing 54 of the state's 77 counties, gathered here to organize an all-out campaign against a bill in the legislature which would enable city governments to broaden their tax programs to include

(*Continued on page 7*)

Personal Mention

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M's director of exhibitor relations, has been awarded a U. S. Navy Certificate of Appreciation for his services during the war.

•

WILLIAM GOETZ, Universal-International production head, accompanied by his wife and CLAUDETTE COLBERT, are expected to arrive here tomorrow from the Coast.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner vice-president and general sales manager, left here yesterday for St. Louis and other Mid-West points.

•

ARTHUR W. KELLY, General Motion Pictures Corp. president, will leave New York today for the Coast on TWA Constellation.

•

SAM SEIDELMAN, PRC foreign manager, has returned to New York after a four and a half months' trip through the Far East.

•

MILTON KUSELL, general sales manager for Selznick Releasing Organization, is scheduled to leave here today for Hollywood.

•

STUART H. AARONS, Warner Club president and member of Warners' legal staff, left here by plane last night for the Coast.

•

ROBERT GILLHAM, of the J. Walter Thompson Agency, is scheduled to leave here today for a vacation in Florida.

Pizor, Rank Officers, Seidelman Sailing

William M. Pizor, foreign sales manager for Screen Guild Productions; Robert Benjamin, president of the U. S. J. Arthur Rank Organization; Joseph H. Seidelman, president of Universal-International, "U's" foreign sales subsidiary, and A. B. Krimm, Eagle-Lion president, are among film industry notables scheduled to leave for Europe today aboard the *SS Queen Elizabeth*. Pizor, who expects to be gone about two months, will stop in London before traveling across the Continent to set up franchises for the distribution of SGP releases.

David Lewis, Enterprise producer; Paulette Goddard, Burgess Meredith, Constance Collier, Glynis Johns, Dr. Hubert Clifford, musical director for London Film Productions; Noel Coward, playwright and producer; Jack Buchanan and James Whale, will also sail.

'Adventuress' Opening

A. W. Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion vice-president and general sales manager, says that "The Adventuress," starring Deborah Kerr, will be premiered at the Majestic Theatre in Boston on March 14, as planned. He also confirms the March 17 national release date.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

MORE on the closely-watched Paramount price change:

The slash in morning scales from 70 cents from opening to 11 A.M. and from 85 cents from 11 A.M. to noon in favor of 55 cents straight from opening to one P.M., all including Federal tax, is not the only shift, although emphasis has been concentrated on that bracket. No doubt, because it is the deepest cut.

Under the former structure, the house used to get 95 cents from noon to five P.M., then $1.30 from five to midnight, when the tariff dropped to 95. Under the new, it is 90 cents from one to six P.M., then $1.20 to midnight when it slides off to 85 cents. This prevails Monday through Friday.

■

On Saturday, from opening-to-11 A.M. the price was 85 cents, rising a dime from 11 A.M. to noon, going to $1.10 from noon to two P.M., then up 10 cents to $1.20 for the next hour, climbing to $1.40 from three to six P.M., when it reached a peak of $1.50 and receded to $1.20 at midnight. Now it is 70 cents from opening to noon, 95 from noon to one P.M., then $1.25 from one to five P.M., at which hour it clambers to $1.50 and remains there until midnight when it is cut back to 95 cents.

The Sunday scale, likewise, has undergone a change. From opening to one P.M., the price formerly was $1.30, changing to $1.50 throughout the afternoon and evening until the midnight hour when it sluffed to $1.20. Now it is $1.25 from opening to one P.M., at its maximum of $1.50 thereafter until midnight when it contracts to 95 cents.

■

The full-blown price setup is essential to any understanding of what the theatre is endeavoring to accomplish. That endeavor, primarily, is to restore morning business to some semblance of its former level. On the basis of the first nine days, the management, which is to say Bob Weitman, stoutly maintains the plan already is so pronounced a success that attendance is putting the previous three shows to shame. On the basis of the first six days, patronage to one A.M. was up almost 100 per cent, he reports.

Meanwhile, Broadway competitors continue to look down their noses. They remain unconvinced, or so they say, of any need to follow suit and the probability is their judgment is sound so far as the new scheme has gone. One week, plus two days, hardly can be conclusive.

■

They are pointing out, also, that any drop in price stacks up as a bargain to the public whose support would be automatic. Principally, however, they are asking if the Paramount is more interested in attendance or in dollars. The answer is pretty obvious. The Paramount is interested in both.

Weitman maintains the theatre reaches its break figure with Wednesday and Friday night and weekend business, which means the gravy train starts to gather speed with whatever else is left. He figures that, while he is getting less money per admission, particularly in the morning hours, he also is getting attendance so much greater than the house has known in about nine months that the gross inevitably must improve.

It is in Weitman's mind as well that he won't have the field to himself much longer. If someone wanted to make a bet, we'd line up with him.

■ ■

For the record:

Thornton Delehanty, reporting in the New York *Herald-Tribune* from Hollywood, had Dore Schary pursuing a new production tack at RKO. No longer was that company to rely so heavily on independents. Instead, new policy provided for the development of a contract list and "to play along less with the outside, or freelance, groups," he wrote.

Hollywood checkup shows that Schary had been misinterpreted; he has no such plan in mind.

■ ■

Century Circuit's program in cooperation with the Board of Education to gauge whether films will complement classroom studies ties the business of exhibition closer to the business of running a community. Bearing all costs and charging no admission, Century is holding one morning show a month for four months.

This is a first-rate instance of good thinking, good service and progressive showmanship.

DANA ANDREWS in
"BOOMERANG"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE — PHIL REGAN
KATHERINE DUNHAM . ERNESTO LECUONA
ED SULLIVAN . SID CAESAR
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

He was made for ACTION! She was made for LOVE!
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
LORETTA YOUNG
DAVID NIVEN
The PERFECT MARRIAGE
IN PERSON
MOLLY PICON
Extra!
Eddie PEABODY
plus Others

Paramount presents Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray in "Suddenly, It's Spring"
In Person JOHNNY LONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA
JOAN EDWARDS
LEWIS & VAN
BUDDY LESTER
DON BAKER at the organ
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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Los Angeles–
4 THEATRES–
"LEADING THE CITY!"
– Variety

New York Roxy–
"OUTGROSSING '13 RUE MADELEINE'!"

Stamford, Connecticut–
"A BOXOFFICE TRIUMPH!"

THE BOOM IS ON

DARRYL F. ZANUCK presents
DANA ANDREWS
in
Boomerang!
with
Jane Wyatt · Lee J. Cobb
Cara Williams · Arthur Kennedy · Sam Levene · Taylor Holmes · Robert Keith · Ed Begley
Directed by ELIA KAZAN
Produced by LOUIS de ROCHEMONT
Screen Play by Richard Murphy · Based Upon an Article by Anthony Abbot, Published in The Reader's Digest

There's always a Boom at the Boxoffice when you play 20th Century-Fox

"THE RAZOR'S EDGE" • "THE LATE GEORGE APLEY" • "THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR"
"CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA" In Technicolor • "THE HOMESTRETCH" In Technicolor

Universal International
UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL Presents
Yvonne De CARLO
Brian DONLEVY
Jean Pierre AUMONT
Song of Scheherazade
IN TECHNICOLOR
ALL The Best Loved Music of
RIMSKY-KORSAKOFF
"SONG OF INDIA" "FANDANGO" "ARABESQUE"
"SCHEHERAZADE" "HYMN TO THE SUN"
"FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE"
"CAPRICE ESPAGNOL"
with EVE ARDEN • PHILIP REED • JOHN QUALEN
and Star of the Metropolitan Opera Company CHARLES KULLMAN
Director of Photography, Hal Mohr, A. S. C. • Associate Producer, Edward Dodds
Written and Directed by WALTER REISCH • Produced by EDWARD KAUFMAN
A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

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'Song of Scheherazade'

It's a SWEET TUNE at the B. O.!

"'SONG' HOT!" in N. Y.
"TORRID!" in Buffalo
"SONG' HOT!" in L. A.
"LOOKS GOOD!" in Chi. (2nd Week "FANCY!")
"TERRIF!" in Cincy

and it's just beginning to sing!

Big Spurt in Production as 12 Films Start

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Production has surged strongly upward, with work starting on 12 new films. Five other have been finished and one—M-G-M's "The Pirate"—temporarily suspended. The shooting index stood at 38, compared to the previous level of 32. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Lady from Shanghai," "Three Were Thoroughbreds" (Cavalier).

Started: "The Man from Colorado," with Glenn Ford, William Holden, Ellen Drew; "The Lady Knew How," with Franchot Tone, Lucille Ball, Jonathan Hale.

Shooting: "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman).

Eagle-Lion

Finished: "Repeat Performance."

Started: "Out of the Blue," with George Brent, Virginia Mayo, Turhan Bey, Carole Landis, Ann Dvorak; "Love from a Stranger," with John Hodiak, Sylvia Sidney, Ann Richards.

M-G-M

Shooting: "Song of the Thin Man," "The Hucksters."

Monogram

Started: "Sarge Goes to College," with Freddie Stewart, June Preisser, Alan Hale, Jr., Noel Neill.

Shooting: "Louisiana," "The Gangster" (Allied Artists).

Paramount

Started: "The Big Clock," with Ray Milland, Maureen O'Sullivan, Charles Laughton, Rita Johnson, George Macready.

Shooting: "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion).

PRC

Finished: "Silent Voice."

Started: "Gangway for Murder," with Robert Lowery, Anabelle Shaw.

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Tycoon," "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie," "The Bishop's Wife" (Goldwyn).

Republic

Shooting: "The Trespasser," "Springtime in the Sierras."

Selznick

Started: "Portrait of Jennie," with Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotten.

Shooting: "The Paradine Case."

Why are they after the Girl with the Little Black Book?
EAGLE-LION KNOWS!

Independents Honor Price at Dinner

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—The Independent Motion Picture Producers Association last night gave a farewell dinner to Byron Price. Speakers were IMPPA president I. E. Chadwick, SIMPP president Donald Nelson, Jean Hersholt, Joseph I. Breen and IATSE representative Roy Brewer.

A luncheon to Price was given by the AMPP today at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Price will leave here for New York on March 15 to assume new duties as U. N. assistant secretary-general.

Top Showmen

(*Continued from page* 1)

Theatre for Gaumont British.

Judges comprised executives in distribution and exhibition. Twenty-two finalists had weathered the quarterly awards competitions, and their exhibits, which were on view at the Hotel Astor, here, this week, were examined by hundreds from the industry. Sol A. Schwartz, vice-president and general manager of RKO Theatres, principal speaker at the awards luncheon, said he found particular merit in campaigns conducted by managers of smaller theatres without the aid of a publicity department or exploitation director.

N. Y. Tax Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

where a fight could be waged."

A Republican Assemblyman declared: "If the bill were to come to a vote today, it would be defeated, I think, but the situation will change by next week. There may be amendments. Some localities will not wish to levy such taxes. This kind of bill puts every legislator on the spot."

State lawmakers expect a protesting deluge of mail and wires over the weekend.

Approve U. S. Tax Bill

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The House today approved a joint Congressional conference committee report continuing indefinitely the Federal wartime excise taxes, including the admissions tax. Immediate Senate approval is expected.

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Miracle on 34th Street."

Started: "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay," with June Haver, Lon McCallister, Walter Brennan.

Shooting: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber."

United Artists

Shooting: "Atlantis" (Nero); "Body and Soul" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Started: "Jeopardy," with Edmond O'Brien, Ella Raines, William Bendix, Vincent Price; "For the Love of Mary," with Deanna Durbin, John Dall, Donald O'Connor; "Singapore," with Fred MacMurray, Ava Gardner, Richard Haydn.

Shooting: "The Secret Beyond the Door" (Diana); "Brute Force" (Hellinger).

Warners

Shooting: "Voice of the Turtle," "Two Guys from Milwaukee," "Wallflower," "The Unfaithful," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz).

Stoltz Nominated To Head AMPA

Arnold Stoltz has been designated by the nominating committee of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers to succeed Rutgers Neilson, whose term of presidency will expire shortly. Nomination is tantamount to election. Others nominated are: Vice-president, Phil Williams; treasurer, Max Stein; secretary, Marguerite Weyburn. Nominated for the board of directors are: Neilson, Joel Swenson, Harry McWilliams, Hap Hadley and Don Velde. Charles Alicoate was nominated to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees.

Nominating committee chairman Robert Wile announced the selections at yesterday's AMPA luncheon-meeting at the Town Hall Club, here, which was addressed by George T. Delacorte, president of Dell Publications; Muriel Babcock, editor of Ideal Publications; O. G. Elder, president of MacFadden Publications; Ralph Daigh, Fawcett Publications, and David Brown, editor of *Liberty* magazine, all of whom reviewed progress made by fan magazines. Maurice Chevalier, guest of honor, was welcomed on his return to the U. S. Some 200 AMPA members and guests were present. Curtis Mitchell, Paramount's advertising-publicity director, was master of ceremonies. Irving Schriffrin was chairman of the luncheon arrangements committee.

Bidding Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

July 1. The other two, Paramount and United Artists, could obtain stays only by applying separately for them, according to informed legal opinion here. M-G-M, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and Warners have not appealed from the bidding provision. UA has appealed on bidding but has stated it will not ask for a postponement. Paramount, which also has appealed on bidding, has made no decision on a stay.

Louis Frohlich, Columbia counsel, said yesterday that his application would seek a stay of all the provisions from which the company has appealed. These include, besides bidding, injunctions against multiple sales and against "arbitrarily refusing" to license a feature on a run selected by an exhibitor instead of licensing it to a competitor on such run.

Universal's application, filed by attorneys Thomas Turner Cooke and Charles D. Prutzman, asks, in addition to the stay of bidding, that the Supreme Court exempt the company temporarily from those injunctions of the New York court "which forbid the performance of existing contracts or invalidate certain provisions thereof." Thus, Universal, pending action on its appeal, accepts the local tribunal's order of single sales after July 1 and its ban, beginning April 1, on new contracts fixing minimum prices, granting clearance between theatres not in substantial competition and "unreasonable" clearance between competitive houses, and making franchise agreements, formula deals or master agreements—but seeks the right to continue all such pacts now in effect. This would provide, of course, exemption of any existing sales of the company's season's product as a whole.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Mar. 6

"TENDER Is the Night," regarded by many critics as one of the late F. Scott Fitzgerald's most distinguished novels, will be brought to the screen by David O. Selznick, with Jennifer Jones in the starring role. . . . Arrangements have been completed whereby Universal-International will release Monte Shaff's production "Man-Eaters of Kumaon," based on a book by Jim Corbett. . . . Steven Vincent, Young French actor, has been signed to a long-term contract by Warners.

•

A story built around the United States Postal Inspection Service—the little-publicized "police force" of the Post Office Department, will be the basis for one of the pictures on Benedict Bogeau's 1947 program for United Artists release. . . . Nicholas Ray, who directed the New York stage play, "Beggars' Holiday," has joined RKO Radio under a writer-director deal. His first assignment is the film version of Edward Anderson's best-seller, "Thieves Like Us."

•

Glenn Ford, William Holden and Ellen Drew will co-star in Columbia's Technicolor outdoor action film, "The Man from Colorado." Charles Vidor will direct, Jules Schermer will produce. . . . Peter Lorre has been signed by Republic for a leading role with Vera Ralston and John Carroll in "Crime Passionelle." . . . George Brent has been signed by Eagle-Lion for a starring role in "Out of the Blue."

•

"My Own True Love" will be the title of Paramount's film version of the Yolanda Foldes novel, "Make You a Fine Wife." British actress Phyllis Calvert will be starred, and Val Lewton has been assigned to produce. . . . Allen Rivkin has been signed by Independent Artists to a producer-writer contract. . . . Screen rights to "The Tin Flute," Gabrielle Roy's novel whose locale is modern Montreal, have been acquired by Universal-International.

•

Art Gardner has been appointed executive assistant to Frank and Maurice King, and will work with them on "The Gangster," their current production for Allied Artists. . . . That unpredictable bird, the stork, caused a lot of confusion in Hollywood castings last week. Teresa Wright, forced to withdraw from Samuel Goldwyn's production, "The Bishop's Wife," was replaced by Loretta Young, and Miss Young, who had previously been announced for a stellar role in RKO Radio's "Memory of Love," was in turn replaced by Merle Oberon.

Mr. Exhibitor: Investigate Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service before signing any trailer contracts. Write, wire or phone Filmack 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago 5, Ill. and receive full details.

Ban Jurisdictionals By Law: C. of C.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Jurisdictional strikes should be ruled an unfair labor practice and unions should be made responsible by law for such disputes, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce told the House Education and Labor committee today.

H. W. Steinkraus, chairman of the C. of C.'s labor relations committee, opposed compulsory arbitration between labor and management. He said, however, that voluntary arbitration is acceptable to the Chamber.

Commenting on jurisdictional strikes, the Chamber said: "Labor unions have failed to see that it is to their advantage to provide adequate forums for the settlement of such disputes. For that reason a jurisdictional strike should be made an unfair labor practice and legal machinery should be provided for settlement of such disputes."

Theatres Help Local Merchants: Friedman

Chester Friedman, editor of the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald,* told a White Plains Lion's Club luncheon-meeting yesterday that "the theatre is a bulwark in keeping local consumers of tangible merchandise in their own communities." Friedman, who was guest speaker at the luncheon, said that the "great drawing power of motion pictures helps to attract business" for local merchants from rural and surrounding areas.

Lantz Signs 5-Year Contract with UA

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Walter Lantz has signed a five-year releasing contract with United Artists for 11 cartoon shorts annually.

With Universal for the past 20 years, Lantz will continue his "Woody Woodpecker" musical miniatures and "Andy Panda" characters in his forthcoming product.

Flying is the way to travel to—

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UA's Sears Makes Gold Cup Awards

CHICAGO, March 6.—The Midwest district, headed by Rud Lohrenz, has been awarded first prize of $7,000 in United Artists vice-president Gradwell L. Sears' Gold Cup Drive.

At a regional sales meeting here today, the Chicago branch headed by Sid Rose, was awarded $5,000 in prizes. Rose also received a gold cup from Sears. These five salesmen each receivd $500: Milt Kruger of Indianapolis, John Graham of Kansas City, Carl Reece of Omaha, M. Provencher of Milwaukee and Ed Stoller of Minneapolis.

'Years' Nets $16,000 Pittsburgh Advance

PITTSBURGH, March 6.—The Fulton Theatre here ran up a $16,000 advance sale for "The Best Years of Our Lives," which is being shown at advanced prices four times a day. Individual seats are not reserved, but no tickets are sold beyond capacity.

The house points out that one advantage of the system is that it breaks down resistance to advanced prices required for big pictures. Only minor hitches occurred; some people claimed the right to sit through two shows.

Seven More Pictures Get Legion Ratings

Columbia's "Thirteenth Hour" has been classified A-I by the National Legion of Decency. The following were classified A-II: "Danger Street" and "My Favorite Brunette," both Paramount; "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock," United Artists, and "Undercover Maisie," M-G-M.

AEF Corp.'s French-made "Angel and Sinner" and Tricolor Films' French-made "Children of Paradise," were placed in Class B.

RKO-Radio Appoints Elias Lapinere

Elias Lapinere has been appointed RKO-Radio European publicity director and will make his headquarters in the Paris office of Wladimir Lissim, general European supervisor, RKO-Radio discloses here. Lapinere has been nominated by European managers of American companies as chairman of the public relations committee for the Brussels Film Festival.

Goldstone to RKO

HOLLYWOOD, March 6. — Richard Goldstone has joined RKO Radio as a producer, according to an announcement by Dore Schary, executive vice-president in charge of production. He will concentrate, under Schary's supervision, on a specialized type of picture, the nature of which will be disclosed later. Former head of the M-G-M short subject department and more recently a producer at M-G-M and Columbia, Goldstone served during the war with the motion picture division of the USAAF.

Schary-Wallis Deal

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Dore Schary and Hal Wallis have announced a "package deal" whereby RKO-Radio secures from Hal Wallis Productions at Paramount screen rights to "The White Swamp," along with Lizabeth Scott and Burt Lancaster as co-stars, Byron Haskin as director and Leo Tover as cameraman.

Film Salesmen

(*Continued from page* 1)

plies from three major companies expressing their willingness to sit down and discuss the film salesmen's demands, it is said.

Arthur M. Van Dyke, sales manager of 20th Century-Fox in Chicago, who was elected national president of the Colosseum unit in St. Louis last Dec. 1, discloses that to date no specific demands have been asked for. He also said that because of the peculiar nature of a film salesmen's job, no minimum hours will be asked for.

Van Dyke said the Colosseum is not affiliated with any labor organization. The IATSE has on occasion attempted to organize film salesmen. He pointed out that salesmen are the only branch of the industry not organized to date and that their aims are to get security and proper position in the industry. He added that salesmen's demands will be fair and reasonable, observing, "I think the companies will be fair and reasonable with us."

Van Dyke said that negotiation strategy will be set by an executive group composed of 14 from all sections of the country. While declining to state how many salesmen are now associated with the Colosseum throughout the country, Van Dyke did say that the membership in Seattle, for example, has increased 300 per cent in 10 days. Omaha and Indianapolis are also completely organized. He reports that the Colosseum embraces 13 film salesmen's groups comprising a membership of nearly 500.

Van Dyke succeeded Frank W. Solley of RKO Radio in Atlanta as national president in the December election. Solley was elected treasurer, Mel Keller of Portland, Ore., executive vice-president; N. Provencher, Milwaukee, executive secretary.

Hollywood Mass Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—With the basic issues in the six-months-old studio strike still unchanged, the Conference of Studio Unions prepared for a special mass meeting on Sunday night at Legion Stadium. All unions and several civic organizations have been invited to hear union president Herbert Sorrell report on his abduction and beating by unidentified assailants last Sunday night.

Local 278 Negotiating

HOLLYWOOD, March 6. — Building Service Employes' local No. 278 is understood to be negotiating with IATSE leaders for an arrangement under which its striking members could disassociate themselves from the Conference of Studio Unions and return to work.

Oklahoma Owners

(*Continued from page* 1)

amusement levies or gross receipt taxes.

The meeting, presided over by C. B. Akers, chairman of the state exhibitors' legislative committee, resulted in agreement by the exhibitors to spark a "grass-roots" drive against the proposed law and support another measure designed to increase the state's property tax system. The opposed bill, sponsored by Tulsa and Oklahoma City officials, has been referred to a Senate committee for public hearings within the next two weeks.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Feb. 8	BLIND SPOT Chester Morris D—73 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)	RAINBOW OVER THE ROCKIES Jimmy Wakelev O—54 mins.	LADIES' MAN Eddie Bracken Cass Daley C—90 mins. (Rev. 1/7/47)	(Eagle-Lion) BEDELIA Margaret Lockwood Ian Hunter D—81 mins. (Rev. 1/29/47)		SAN QUENTIN Lawrence Tierney D—66 mins. (Rev. 9/2/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG Dana Andrews Jane Wyatt D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)	(Sol Lesser) THE RED HOUSE Ed. G. Robinson Lon McCallister D—100 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)		BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS Robert Alda Andrea King D—90 mins. (613) (Rev. 12/23/46)
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)			ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich O—100 mins. (Rev. 2/6/47)	SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON George Montgomery Nancy Guild D—72 mins.			
Feb. 22	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	FALL GUY Robert Armstrong Clifford Penn D—64 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John O—58 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins.	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) Tyrone Power Alice Fay M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey M—90 mins. (Rev. 2/25/47)		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1			THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)	HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (Reissue) (Rev. 10/29/41)		(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8	13TH HOUR Richard Dix D—65 mins. THE LONE HAND TEXAN (Rev. 2/27/47)		HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas	EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)		(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders D—115 mins. (Rev. 2/26/47)		(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15	(March Release) JOHNNY O'CLOCK Dick Powell Evelyn Keyes D—85 mins. (Rev. 1/2/47)	(March Release) BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)	TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown				THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40) SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22	MILLIE'S DAUGHTER Gladys George Gay Nelson D—70 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)		SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore			(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett D—90 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29	WEST OF DODGE CITY KING OF THE WILD HORSES Preston Foster Gail Patrick		VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR			(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID (Color) Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	THAT WAY WITH WOMEN Sydney Greenstreet Martha Vickers C—85 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)
April 5	BLONDIE'S HOLIDAY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—67 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	(April Releases) IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN Frank Sinatra Jimmy Durante C—103 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)		MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker				(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)		
April 12	(April Releases) GUILT OF JANET AMES Rosalind Russell Melvyn Douglas D—81 mins.	LITTLE MR. JIM Butch Jenkins James Craig D—94 mins. (Rev. 6/10/46)			FRONTIER FIGHTERS Buster Crabbe Fuzzy St. John	BELLS OF SAN ANGELO Roy Rogers Dale Evans					STALLION ROAD Ronald Reagan Alexis Smith Zachary Scott
April 19	FRAMED Glenn Ford Janis Carter Barry Sullivan D—82 mins.	THE SEA OF GRASS Spencer Tracy Katherine Hepburn D—125 mins. (Rev. 2/13/47)			PHILO VANCE'S GAMBLE Alan Curtis Frank Jenks				(Jules Levey) NEW ORLEANS Arturo de Cordova Dorothy Patrick		

[*Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.)* Motion Picture Daily *Review Da*

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 47 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1947 | TEN CENTS

FILE COPY DO NOT REMOVE

Southwest Is 1st in Volume Of Early Bids

M-G-M Said to Have No New York Requests

Southwest exhibitors lead the country in volume of requests for competitive bidding, according to M-G-M's records, sources familiar with the company's bidding operations report. Theatremen who petitioned the company are concentrated mostly in the Dallas and Oklahoma City areas, it is said, and from this the conclusion is drawn that many independents are seeking to outbid the Griffith interests there.

Following in the number of requests for bidding are the Midwest, Far West, Central and East in that order, reportedly, with New York exhibitors said to be completely inactive in this respect.

Fred Schwartz, vice-president of Century Circuit here, long on record in favor of bidding, states he has yet to decide on whether he will look for

(*Continued on page* 9)

St. Louis May Pass Admissions Levy

ST. LOUIS, March 9.—A five per cent amusement tax, designed to yield $750,000 annually, is one of four tax measures proposed by the Citizens' Tax Commission to Mayor Kaufmann as a source of additional municipal revenue. First proposed last spring and blocked through the opposition of motion picture interests here, the amusement tax now proposed is before the Board of Aldermen. Indica-

(*Continued on page* 9)

Greek War Orphan Luncheon March 26

Hollywood stars and military and government leaders will be guests at an industry Greek War Orphans Appeal luncheon at the Hotel Astor here on March 24. On the luncheon committee are Robert Coyne, Ned Depinet, Jack Cohn, Si Fabian, Harry Kalmine, Sol Schwartz, Harry Brandt, Ted Gamble, Tom Connors, Ben Serkowich, S. Barret McCormick, Charles Schlaifer, Sam Shain, Fred Schwartz, Joseph R. Vogel, Sam Rinzler, Ralph Pielow, Max Cohen and Ben Abner.

Columbia Stay Plea Cites Years Since Suit Was Docketed

Columbia's application to the U. S. Supreme Court for a stay of single sales and competitive bidding will be backed by the contention that, since the industry anti-trust suit was filed eight years ago, the time gained in effecting these drastic provisions before the high tribunal rules would be insignificant, it was indicated by Louis Frohlich, counsel for the company, here at the weekend. The application will be filed early this week.

Frohlich will point out that, in the event the Supreme Court reverses the New York Federal District Court on bidding and single sales, Columbia would be subjected to "great additional costs" in reverting to its policy of selling a year's product in advance if it had been forced meanwhile to in-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Laboratory Tie-up Looms Here Tonight

A strike starting at midnight tonight and threatening virtually all East Coast film processing appeared to be in the offing over the weekend, following the breakdown of negotiations on Friday between representatives of 18 laboratories in New York and vicinity and the negotiating committee of Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians, Local No. 702, IATSE. With 1800 members expected to attend a strike-vote meeting scheduled to be

(*Continued on page* 10)

25 New Companies Use Title Service

Washington, March 9.—Twenty-five additional non-member companies subscribed to the Motion Picture Association's title registration during 1946, according to Margaret Ann Young, the title bureau's chief.

The word "you" was registered most often, 683 times, followed by "love," 649; "I," 595; "my," 560, and "man," 363. Together, the top five words spell: "I love you, my man."

Halt Building CodeHearings

The proposed new standard building code for New York State, containing numerous revised theatre regulations, faces an uncertain future, it was explained here by John Coggesall, industrial code referee for the State Labor Department, who said the Board of Standards and Appeals has failed to agree as yet to call public hearings on the document. Such hearings, if they are held at all, will not take place until after the Legislature adjourns, he added.

The code, drawn up by the Department more than a year ago, affects theatres principally as regards projection booths, stairways, exits, etc.

Meanwhile, it has been announced in Albany that the Joint Legislative Committee studying existing requirements relative to building construction will file a report on March 15.

Theatres Seen Escaping Fire Insurance Rate Rise

Motion picture theatres stand a good chance of escaping increased fire insurance rates which are being sought generally by a majority of U. S. fire underwriters as a result of increased fire losses outside the theatre field since 1942.

This favored treatment for theatres is forecast by film industry insurance brokers. Mitchell May., Jr., insurance brokerage organization here, bases its conclusion on the fact that U. S. theatre fire losses in recent years have been among the lowest sustained by American business.

Carelessness is cited as the major reason for the generally large increase in fires, according to a survey by *Standard and Poor's*, financial and business directory. Increased values and larger amount of property subject to destruction are chiefly responsible for the upward trend in fire losses, the survey finds.

"Assuming that fire losses continue at a high level, the business (fire underwriting) will need either a further sharp increase in premium volume or higher rates, or both," the survey continues, holding that fire underwriting may not again become profitable until 1948 even if rate increases are established.

Treasury Will Review 20% Admission Tax

Truman Gets Measure Extending War Excises

WASHINGTON, March 9. — The first clear-cut indication that the Treasury is prepared to review the 20 per cent Federal Admission Tax, along with other wartime excise taxes, came on Friday, during hearings on the Treasury appropriation for the next fiscal year before the House Appropriations Committee.

Stanley S. Surrey, the Treasury's tax legislative counsel, told the committee that the Treasury is reviewing these taxes with a view to correcting any inequities that may be found.

Meanwhile, the Senate, without a dissenting vote, approved and sent to the White House legislation indefinitely extending the wartime excise taxes. The new bill, already passed by the House, includes tax concessions on furs and foreign travel which were made by a joint conference committee.

New Case Activates Tenth AAA Board

The filing of a clearance complaint with the previously inactive Omaha tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, bringing to 23 the number of cases before the 10 now-active boards, has further bolstered the sudden flurry of renewed exhibitor in-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Congressman Lauds Circuit Experiment

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Praising the motion picture industry in general for its "splendid services" during the war and Century Theatres of New York in particular for its visual education experiment begun Feb. 24 in collaboration with the Board of Edu-

(*Continued on page* 8)

6 Reviews Today

"The Imperfect Lady," page 7; "Buck Privates Come Home," "The Adventuress," page 8; "Range Beyond the Blue," "The Years Between," page 9; and "Lost Honeymoon," page 10.

Personal Mention

HARRY H. THOMAS, Producers Releasing Corp. president, left New York for the Coast on Saturday.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO sales promotion manager, will address the American Public Relations Association in Washington on March 17.

•

WALTER L. TITUS, JR., Republic's southern division sales manager, is in Charlotte from New York today. He will be in Nashville Wednesday.

•

RUDY BERGER, Southern sales manager for M-G-M, and his aide, LEONARD HIRSCH, are due in Atlanta today from Memphis.

•

S. BARRET MCCORMICK, RKO Radio advertising-publicity director, left the Coast by train for New York on Saturday.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia's assistant general sales manager, will leave New York today for Washington for a two-day stay.

•

BILL JOHNSTON, special representative for BOB HOPE, returned to New York at the weekend from a national tour.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount's Western division sales manager, is visiting New York from Los Angeles.

•

MARTIN LEVINE, Brandt Theatres executive here, left for Florida over the weekend for a vacation.

•

CLAUDE LEE, Paramount's public relations director, returned here at the weekend from Florida.

•

EUGENE ARNSTEIN, secretary-treasurer of Film Classics, is in Buffalo from New York.

•

R. M. SAVINI, president of Astor Pictures, returned here from Toronto on Saturday.

•

CHARLES K. STEARN, Loew's assistant treasurer, is due here today from the Coast.

•

MR. and MRS. WALTER READE, JR., have left New York for the Coast.

Record for 'Pursued'

Warner's "Pursued" set a non-holiday opening-day record of more than $13,000 at the Strand Theatre here on Friday, playing to an attendance in excess of 18,500, the company reports, adding that the receipts were over $1,000 ahead of the previous high non-holiday opener.

Arthur Dickinson Ill

Arthur S. Dickinson, head of the conservation department of the Motion Picture Associaiton here, is seriously ill at his Rye, N. Y., home.

Jack McCullough of the MPA office here has been placed in charge of the department in Dickinson's absence.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

AN industry representative recently returned from England concludes that there no longer is room for doubt that the British motion picture industry has come of age because, he says, it is faced with most of the problems that confront the American industry, and is subject to much the same criticism at home.

It was like being in Hollywood, he related, to listen to the discussions of high production costs in Britain. It was like being in New York to read the ill-tempered criticism and gratuitous counsel offered the British industry, so alike are they and the home-grown variety.

In London, too, considerable complaint is to be heard that Britain is sending the wrong type of pictures to foreign lands, particularly to Germany, the traveler reported. The complaint is that the "furriners" get the wrong slant on democracy and the British way of life from the pictures that London is sending overseas, and something should be done about it.

Sound familiar? Maybe the same guys write them all.

He reported that in many European countries he witnessed packed theatres and long waiting lines of customers for American pictures that critics here have berated and ridiculed. Admission prices averaged about 60 cents per seat in Germany for such film fare and to see it patrons sat on wooden benches in poorly heated theatres, most of which are equipped with but a single projection machine, which means an interruption of the program at the end of every reel.

Moreover, just as a clique of American film critics are beating the drum hereabouts for British pictures so, in England, is another critics' lodge touting the motion pictures of France, according to the returned traveler.

• •

Financial circles here believe that any public offering of United Artists which may be made in the future most likely would be a $10,000,000 issue, either 100,000 shares of $100 par or 200,000 shares of $50 par. They see no likelihood as of now of such an offering being made this year.

UA is definitely in the market for big name producers to add to its roster. There are some without commitments to other distributors now and others whose present commitments will expire soon whom UA officials will be making overtures to shortly. In this connection it is not outside the realm of probability that UA may wind up with a new distribution deal with David O. Selznick. The parting of the two was genuinely amicable. Now if terms which the company regards as reasonable and Selznick might find acceptable could be worked out he would be back in the UA fold on either a full or partial basis.

• •

Exhibitors have been heard to say that the Department of Justice attack on competitive bidding in its appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court is evidence that the Department, after all, is ready to go to bat for exhibitors, the majority of whom are as vigorously opposed now as ever to the bidding system.

Tain't so.

The Department was not thinking of exhibitors at all when it attacked the bidding system in its appeal. The Department will not ask for a stay of the effective date of bidding beyond July 1. It takes the position that bidding as a method of licensing film is untried and may be good or bad, only experience with it will demonstrate which. Its opposition to bidding, in its appeal, is based solely on the Department's contention that it is a poor substitute, or no substitute at all, for the Department's pet phobia, affiliated theatre divorcement.

• •

A correspondent commenting upon the recent observations in this space on the relative merits of industry legislative action on the local and national levels, recalls that in 1943 efforts were well along within the industry to organize what was to be known as the national tax conference of exhibitor organizations. It would have included all theatre interests and would have anticipated and fought on the national, not the local level, just such measures as the current one continuing the Federal wartime admissions tax indefinitely. The plan was kicked over at the last minute presumably by professional Washington lobbyists who didn't want exhibitor leaders messin' around their backyard.

"Maybe," observes Tradewise's correspondent, "the national exhibitor tax conference wasn't such a bad idea after all."

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM

THE Morenci, Michigan, *Observer* prints this note: "Because of the great amount of last-minute advertising, it has been necessary to omit much of the news from this issue of the *Observer*. The news will be printed next week."

▽

N. Y. World-Telegram headline: "U. S. AND MEXICO WILL AIR HOOF, MOUTH PROBLEM." *If it isn't one end, its the other.*

▽

There was a spell late last Wednesday night when the management of New York's Music Hall wished it didn't have at least one of those fancy gadgets of stagecraft lining the Hall's walls backstage. Some 5,000 patrons ran pell mell for the exits when a backstage engineer turned the wrong valve shortly after the house darkened for the feature picture, and steam jetted upward from pipes underneath the footlights, to produce a steam-curtain of hazy effects—used for stage acts—which this time looked more like smoke and flame.

▽

Fellow staffers right down to a man send heartfelt expressions of sympathy to Clark Gable, who — says United Press—is paid $6,000 a week, yet finds it a lucky year when he clears more than $1,000 for himself.

▽

Actress Dorothy Lamour reports to the Hollywood sheriff's office that her $1,100 cigarette case, a little trinket featuring 50 rubies and 30 diamonds, was "lost" at a cafe party given the other day by producer Walter Wanger. But the sad news is brightened somewhat by the fact that Dot still has her sarong.

▽

Without showing the slightest outward sign of trepidation, motion picture industry members of Variety Tent No. 21 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary.

▽

The miners have their portal-to-portal pay and now comes wash-up- time pay, instituted by DuPont, which is related to the motion picture industry by virtue of its DuPont Film raw-stock subsidiary. The soap-and-watering process will cost the company $4,600,000 a year.

▽

Lew Lehr's current yarn is about the young chap in 20th Century-Fox's home office publicity department, about to pop the question to his gal, who stopped at a jewelry store where he spotted an engagement ring he liked.

"How much is it?" the prospective customer asked.

"Just $100," said the clerk.

The lad whistled in surprise.

"How much is that one?" he asked, pointing to another ring.

"That one is two whistles."

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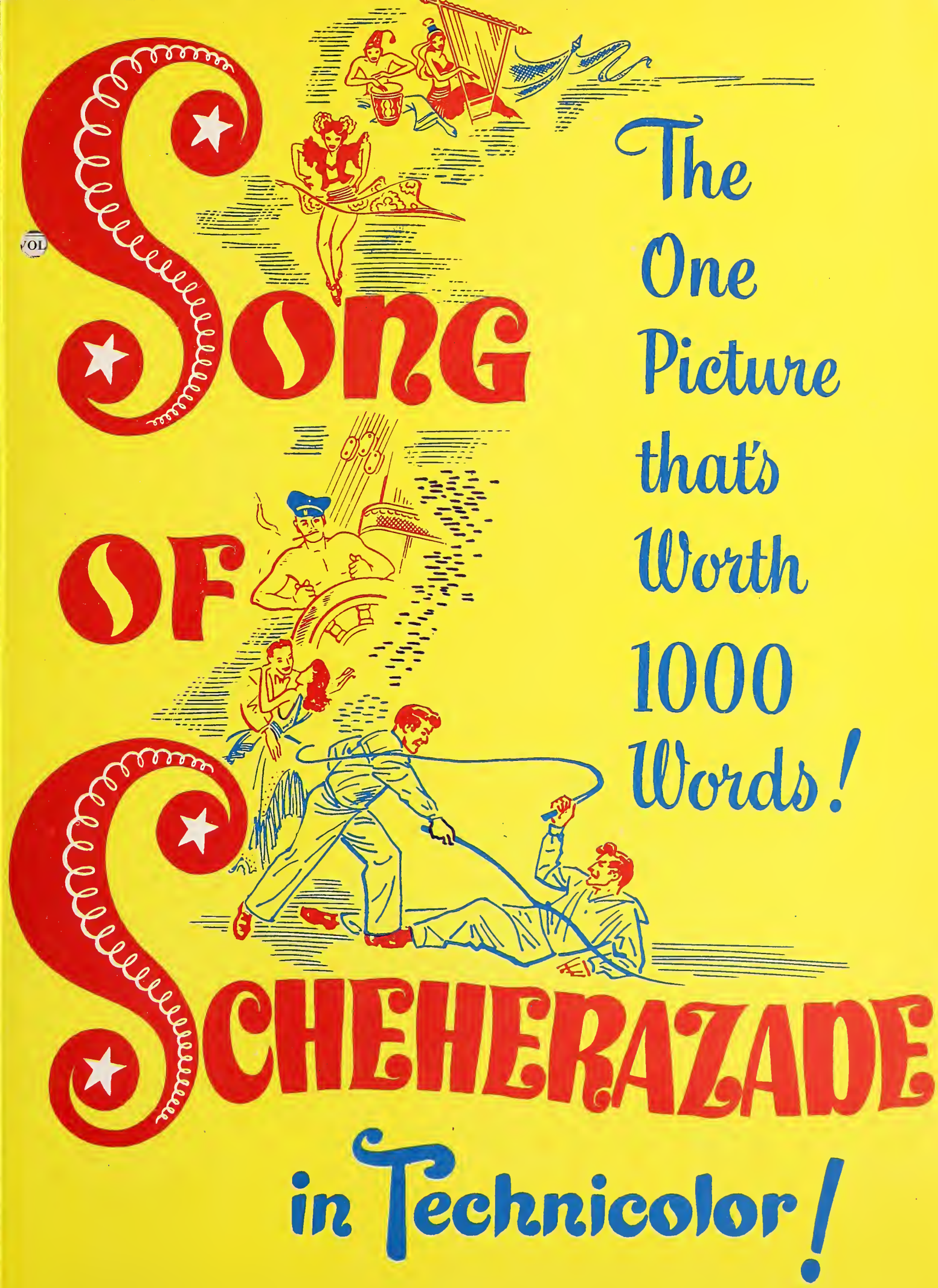
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PHILIP REED · JOHN QUALEN

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Song of Scheherazade

DON'T SAY IT... SIGH IT!

in Technicolor!

Newsreel Parade

PRESIDENT TRUMAN's visit to Mexico is reported by all current newsreels. A variety of sports items and events surrounding personalities such as Secretary Marshall, Britain's King and Queen, Herbert Hoover and Maurice Chevalier round out the coverage. Complete contents follow:

TOLETONE NEWS, No. 55—President Truman visits Mexico City. Secretary of State Marshall leaves for Moscow. Belgium: 50,000 war veterans demonstrate. New bombings in Palestine. King George and Queen Elizabeth in South Africa. Lewis and miners' union found guilty by Supreme Court. Sports: Wrestling, ice boating, baseball.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 253—Truman in Mexico. Martial law in Palestine. Secretary Marshall off to Moscow. Belgians riot. High court finds John L. Lewis guilty. Royal family in Africa. Navy basketeers sink Army.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 56—Basketball: Army vs. Navy. Marshall begins Moscow mission. Supreme Court upholds Lewis conviction. Tension mounts in Palestine. Mexico hails Truman.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 58—Truman in Mexico. Hoover speaks on food. Maurice Chevalier arrives in U. S. Marshall off to Moscow.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 19—Sixteen killed in Palestine bombing. President Truman's three-day visit to Mexico. Hoover reports on food conditions in Europe. Navy beats Army in basketball contest.

'Roosevelt Story' Premiere in April

Tola Productions' 82-minute feature documentation of the life and times of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The Roosevelt Story," will have its world premiere at the Globe Theatre, here, about April 12, the second anniversary of the late president's death, Tola executives Martin Levine and Oliver Unger disclosed at the weekend. National and international figures will be invited to the film's opening, with receipts to go to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Fund, they said.

Two million feet of Army, Navy and newsreel film about Roosevelt shot over three decades were combed by Tola in the making of the picture, which has been authorized by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and on which Elliott Roosevelt has served as editorial consultant, Levine said, adding that the film will be trade screened in about two weeks. Negotiations are currently in progress toward lining up a national distributor," he said. Ultimately the picture will be made in 14 languages for distribution abroad and will be reduced to 16mm. for showings in schools, the producers reported.

Webster Named for FCC Member Post

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Edward Mount Webster, a former assistant chief engineer of the Federal Communications Commission and now a director of telecommunications of the National Federation of American Shipping, has been nominated by President Truman to fill an FCC vacancy created more than a year ago when Paul A. Porter resigned to become Office of Price Administration chief.

The Senate will vote on the President's nomination.

Review

"The Imperfect Lady"

(*Paramount*)

THAT "The Imperfect Lady" emerges as merchandise of importance for the theatremen is attributable almost solely to an unusually fine cast which overcomes admirably certain weak spots in the story material, particularly its somewhat rambling development and not too fully drawn characterizations.

Ray Milland and Teresa Wright share the lead, lending all the histrionic know-how they possess, and that's plenty, to presentation of the Karl Tunberg screenplay about the Londoner of noble background and with Parliamentary aspirations, and the lady he chooses despite the fact she is "below his station."

Virginia Field, Anthony Quinn and Cedric Hardwicke are the principal supporting players, all doing a splendid job. Milland's election to Parliament and his marriage to Miss Wright come early in the costumed (1892) drama. Her innocent encounter, as the story goes, with a stranger, Quinn, leads to trouble as Quinn subsequently is charged with having committed a murder at a time when he actually was with Miss Wright.

Her acknowledgment of the meeting with Quinn at his apartment leaves her wide open to charges of immorality. After much thought, Miss Wright finally makes a last-minute courtroom appearance and saves Quinn. Milland leaves her and in face of the notoriety is forced out of Parliament. Later he learns the truth; then comes the reconciliation.

Tunberg produced the picture and Lewis Allen directed.

Running time, 97 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, April 25.

GENE ARNEEL

National Distributors Hold Chicago Meet

CHICAGO, March 9.—National Film Distributors, preparing a handle physical distribution for the Selznick Releasing Organization, held a two-day meeting at the Hotel Sherman here over the weekend, with James Clark, head of Clark Film Distributors, Philadelphia, presiding.

Also present were: Harold Shertz, Philadelphia, general counsel; Clint Weyer, Philadelphia, secretary; Louis Molitch, Philadelphia; S. J. Marshall, Boston; John Vickers, Charlotte; M. H. Brandon and D. M. Brandon, New Orleans; George Callahan, Jr., and Louis Hanna, Pittsburgh; Meyer Adleman and Miss D. Dennis, Philadelphia; L. V. Benton, Atlanta; J. W. Jack, Dallas; Frank Smith, Syracuse; Earl Jamison, Kansas City; Charles Trampe, Milwaukee; Harold McKinney, Des Moines; Thomas W. Gillboy, San Francisco; W. A. Slater, Seattle, and Edward Johnson, Cleveland.

Hertz to Coast on Buchanan Expansion

John Hertz, Jr., chairman of the board of Buchanan and Co., has gone to Beverly Hills to discuss plans for expansion of the motion picture division of the agency with Buchanan West Coast executives.

Sitting in with him on the parleys will be Fred Jordan, vice-president in charge of Coast operations; Paul Radin, creative head of the Buchanan West Coast office, and John Krimsky, Buchanan representative, who will figure strongly in the intended expansion, the company reports.

Harris Farewell Dinner

ALBANY, N. Y., March 9.—Variety Club Tent No. 9 will give a farewell dinner tomorrow night to Maurice "Bucky" Harris, RKO exploiteer, who is being transferred to New Haven. Lew Allemann has been moved from Salt Lake City to succeed Harris here.

RKO Wins Court Crown

The RKO basketball team defeated the Campbell-Ewald five on Friday evening, 34 to 29, to win the Radio City basketball championship.

M-G-M Record Plant Starts Shipments

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's record division swung into full operation at the weekend with "platters" going to Eastern cities for immediate sale and shipments to the West, Frank Walker, general manager of the division, reports.

He said the record pressing plant at Bloomfield, N. J., is equipped to make 40,000,000 discs annually but the first year's output will be short of that figure.

M-G-M has under contract at present 30 artists and orchestras, including many of the company's screen stars such as Van Johnson, Keenan Wynn, Lionel Barrymore, Jimmy Durante and Kathryn Grayson. Records by Miss Grayson and Lauritz Melchior were among the first to be pressed.

Distribution has been arranged through Zenith Radio Corp. in New York, Newark and Chicago and with other independent companies around the country.

Henry Leaving for Foreign Para. Talks

Paramount-International's Far East division manager F. C. Henry was scheduled to leave here by air yesterday for Shannon, Eire, and Paris, en route to India, where he expects to remain for about a month.

Henry will meet George Weltner, Paramount-International president, and Clement S. Crystal, theatre department head, in India. Later he will meet Morey Marcus, Southeast Asia manager, in Singapore.

Hong Kong Company Set by Paramount

WILMINGTON, DEL., March 9.—Incorporation papers in this state have been filed by Paramount Films of Hong Kong, which will assume the business formerly conducted by Paramount Films Of China, Inc., in Hong Kong.

Corporation officers are: George Weltner, president; Floyd C. Henry and Robert V. Perkins, vice-presidents; Roger C. Clement, secretary; and Milton Kirshenberg, treasurer.

THE GREATEST STARS IN THE MUSICAL WORLD ARE IN

LILY PONS

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN

GREGOR PIATIGORSKY

RISË STEVENS

...and more on the next page...

Released thru UA

Film Experts from Germany to U. S.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—A large number of German scientists, experts in color film development and television, may be brought to the U. S. by the Commerce Department to assist the industry in numerous research problems. In addition, the Department plans to retain some 2,500 scientists in this country.

The Department has planned expansion of research into the AFGA color film development for some months. Its film chief, Nathan D. Golden, and industry representatives procured the process in Germany after the war ended.

Contacts may be let at a future date, provided Congress provides the funds, for research on developments brought over from Germany.

'Cynthia' Delayed

M-G-M has cancelled tomorrow's national tradeshowing of "Cynthia's Secret." A new title and date will be announced shortly. "High Barbaree" will be screened tomorrow as planned.

12,000,000 Overseas To Hear Awards

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Jean Hersholt, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Mervyn LeRoy, chairman of the 19th Academy Awards program, predicted at the weekend that the March 13 Awards presentation ceremony will reach the world's largest listening audience.

"We can count on 12,000,000 people listening in on our 11 short-wave transmitters in San Francisco and New York," Lieut.-Col. Robert E. Kearney, Commandant of the Armed Forces Radio Service, declares.

Kansas Premiere of 'Trail Street' Set

RKO Radio has elaborate plans for the world premiere of "Trail Street" on March 25 in two theatres in Liberal, Kans., locale of the picture, the company announces here. A group of Hollywood personalities will attend the event, which will be followed by openings of the film in 50 cities in Kansas and Missouri. J. Lewis, RKO Radio manager in Kansas City, set the openings.

Reviews

"Buck Privates Come Home"

(*Universal-International*)

THE zany antics, the pratfalls, the wild and fast scenes in which Lou Costello teeters on a ledge or is whirled by an uncontrolled machine—in short, all the slapstick adventures which have stood up so well in the past—crop up again in "Buck Privates Come Home." Naturally enough, it is a riotous concoction that takes up where "Buck Privates" left off; in fact, to establish the continuity, a few "reminder" sequences, snipped from the earlier film, serve as a prelude. Theatre patrons who like their Abbott and Costello served up in healthy chunks will definitely go for this one.

Written by John Grant, Frederic I. Rinaldo and Robert Lees from a story by Richard Macaulay and Bradford Ropes, the screenplay brings Costello and Bud Abbott into a series of scrapes with Nat Pendleton, initially as the cop on whose beat they peddle their "2.50" ties for 35 cents, then as their sergeant and again as the cop. The fount of their postwar problem is finding a home for a little French orphan, played by Beverly Simmons, whom they have illegally brought back to America, and before they succeed they tie in with Tom Brown in his midget racing car scheme, winding up with a furious finish in which Costello goes careening crazily over the countryside and even in the air. Others in the cast are Joan Fulton, Don Beddoe and Donald MacBride.

Robert Arthur produced and Charles T. Barton directed.

Running time, 77 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set. IRVING KAPLAN

"The Adventuress"

(*J. Arthur Rank—Eagle-Lion*)

DELIGHTFUL comic passages and a liberal dose of characterization, portrayed with restraint and sensitivity, are ladled out in this suspenseful melodrama of espionage and invasion secrets to make "The Adventuress," co-produced by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat, and directed by Launder for J. Arthur Rank, a skillfully-handled picture that should go a long way toward expanding the receptivity of American audiences to British product. Enhanced by a whimsicality that runs like an undercurrent to the tense, climactic moments, this picture may be just the thing for an exhibitor seeking to test British product on his patrons.

Deborah Kerr, portraying a young Irish lass schooled in the historic bitterness of her English-despising forebears, resolves to enlist in the Irish Republican Army, only to discover that the two countries are at peace and that, in fact, Britain is preoccupied with the Nazis. In her overpowering sincerity she is persuaded by a Nazi agent, Raymond Huntley, to enlist in a common fight against England, but when he and his aides are captured or killed she finds herself alone in the plot. Her path crosses that of Trevor Howard, a British officer on leave who is wrongly suspected by the Nazi agents of being a counter-espionage agent, and from this point until the final clinch, they are as embattled a pair of lovers as ever graced the screen.

Sought by both the British and Germans for her complicity in the plot, she goes to the Isle of Man where she falls into the hands of the Nazis. Howard, who has followed her, aids in their escape when the carriage in which they are being conveyed back to neutral Eire falls into a "funeral" train which turns out to be a black market smuggling ring. The script was written by Launder and Gilliat with Wolfgang Wilhelm.

Running time, 98 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, March 17. I. K.

S. D. Skouras Sees Good Greek Market

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Greek audiences demand good pictures, Spyros D. Skouras, president of the Skouras Circuit, operating 45 theatres throughout Greece, said at a press conference here. "As long as American producers maintain present standards of quality, they need fear no competition in the Greek market for years to come," the exhibitor asserted.

Skouras, a nephew of Charles, Spyros P. and George Skouras, was accompanied on his trip here by Nick Argyryos, distributor in Greece for Universal-International, United Artists and Republic, and their wives. He will remain here a week longer and then leave for New York.

Skouras stated that 90 per cent of the films now playing in Greece are American, as compared with prewar figures of 50 per cent American and 50 per cent German, British and French.

Skouras, who also heads the Skouras Film Co., distributor in Greece for 20th Century-Fox, Paramount and RKO, said that the picture business has been increasingly good in Greece since the liberation. He declared "the Greek people want entertainment as an anodyne for years of hardship. They want it, and they'll pay for it, even if it means depriving themselves of essentials."

Currently, heavy drama, action pictures and a few musicals command the best grosses in Greece, he said. Local product is not a competitive factor, he pointed out, because the Greek industry makes only five pictures a year.

Coast Damon Runyon Benefit Sold Out

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—All tickets have been sold to the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund for Cancer Research, all-star show to be held at the Downtown Paramount Theatre on Wednesday, March 19.

Bob Hope is organizing the affair and will be master of ceremonies. With 17 stars scheduled to attend, Hope's "My Favorite Brunette" will be shown, a day ahead of its initial Los Angeles run.

'Tarzan' Screening

Sol Lesser's "Tarzan and the Huntress" will be trade screened by RKO-Radio's New York and Los Angeles exchanges on March 18.

Congressman Lauds

(*Continued from page* 1)

cation, Congressman Andrew L. Somers, of Brooklyn, tomorrow will read into the Congressional Record a letter he sent to Century vice-president Fred J. Schwartz citing the theatre executive for his "public-mindedness" and "permanent sense of community responsibility."

Asserting that the experiment "conceivably could develop national implications in the education field," Somers will declare: "Anything that abets the education of your youth is of key importance." If the experiment proves that there is educational value in regular commerial films shown in the ideal technical surroundings of the commercial theatre, Century will have performed a signal service, he will add.

See Full Fostering Of UK Producers

Associated British Pictures Corp. is expected shortly to follow the example of the J. Arthur Rank and Alexander Korda interests in supplying financial backing to British independent producers, it was disclosed here at the weekend by British writer-director Frank Launder, who arrived the U. S. last week for a month's VOL. Should ABPC embrace such a policy, it would mean that the nation's entire non-independent structure would be fostering independent production. It is customary for Korda and Rank individually to supply financial backing to independents up to $2,000,000 per picture, and although the independents do not, under such circumstances, lose their identity by becoming contracted to the backers, the pictures so financed become the property of the backers, Launder explained, adding that it is likely the same circumstances will prevail under ABPC financing.

Touching on the suitability of British pictures for the American market, Launder said he is in favor of seeing British producers availed of the advisory services of a permanent production Code Administration representative.

Launder will leave here today for Boston, where his latest picture, "The Adventuress," an Eagle-Lion release, will have its American premiere on Friday. He will leave New York March 20 for the Coast, where he will discuss story properties for future production. He will return to England early in April to start work on "London Belongs to Me," his next picture, which will be followed by "Blue Lagoon." He recently completed "Green for Danger" and "Captain Boycott," both of which are scheduled for release in the U. S.

The American press, Launder finds, is prone to treat all British pictures more kindly than does the British press, and by the same token, he said, British critics seem to "go easier" on American pictures than they do on British.

St. Louis Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

tions are that hearings will be held soon and that the measure will be adopted because of depleted city funds.

The tax commission pointed out to the Mayor that after the earlier proposal had been defeated, admission charges were increased by an amount exceeding the proposed tax, "thus refuting motion picture statements that the public could not absorb a five per cent increase."

Reviews

"Range Beyond the Blue"

(*Producers Releasing*)

THERE is a superabundance of saddle work, chases, gun duels and a concession to the ladies in the person of Helen Mowery, a winsome girl who does a man's job in handling the reins of her harassed stagecoach line; yet "Range Beyond the Blue" does not succeed in lifting itself out of the average Western class.

Eddie Dean and his aide-de-camp, Roscoe Ates, intercept and thwart one in a series of stagecoach holdups committed against Miss Mowery's line and they remain for a while, with Ates being drafted as sheriff, to clear up the "monkey business." Tod Rodgers, playing the role of Miss Mowery's uncle, turns out to be at the head of the robberies, with an offer from a railroad company for the stage line as the motivation. Also in the cast is Bob Duncan, as a strong-arm man for the culprits. Dean offers pleasant renditions of three songs.

Jerry Thomas produced and Ray Taylor directed from a screenplay by Patricia Harper.

Running time, 53 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 17. I. K.

"The Years Between"

(*J. Arthur Rank-Prestige—U-I*)

MATURE American audiences will regard this Sydney Box production as a fitting example of the elevated stature which has been claimed for British cinematic achievement by champions of that phenomenon here and abroad. Reviewing "The Years Between" from London in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's April 25, 1946, issue, Peter Burnup termed it "a picture to be commended not only to British showmen but to exhibitors in America." With that your present reviewer agrees. Muriel and Sydney Box fashioned the screenplay from a play by Daphne Du Maurier whose novel, "Rebecca," was transformed into a celluloid classic several years ago.

Compton Bennett exercised his directorial acumen to the hilt in converting the inherently slow-paced story about a returning soldier's disillusionment and bitterness into an engrossing, emotion-stirring commentary on the unconventional sociological manifestations that follow war. Michael Redgrave, a British actor with a measure of following in America, is very good as the "dead" army colonel who returns unexpectedly to his countryside manor, broken physically and psychologically as a result of his confinement in a German concentration camp. At home he finds that his iron driveway gate has been requisitioned by the government, his wife has taken his seat in the House of Commons, his young son is a virtual stranger, and his best friend has a claim to his wife's affection.

The very nature of the theme makes the film one with special appeal for women, and, incidentally, one which the bobbysoxers will find quite out of their entertainment sphere.

Valerie Hobson's performance as the wife is penetrating and sensitive; Flora Robson contributes a solidly convincing portrayal as the household's retainer, and James McKechnie, Felix Aylmar, Dulcie Gray and John Gilpin distinguish themselves in satellite roles. Although "The Years Between" may not quite measure up to the sterling qualities of, say, "Brief Encounter," it is nonetheless one of the finer British importations, and should be well received by discerning audiences. The original running time of 100 minutes has been reduced for American showings.

Running time, 88 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, March 8. CHARLES L. FRANKE

Volume of Bids

(*Continued from page* 1)

new product through that type of buying.

M-G-M is said to be selling on a competitive basis regularly in close to 25 situations. Additionally, the company has agreed to conduct bidding in 10 new areas where it has been requested when new product becomes available, probably next month.

Australia Shortage Brings Reissues

By CLIFF HOLT

SYDNEY, March 1 (By Airmail).—Exhibitors here are showing a growing interest in revivals as the feature shortage, once threatened, now becomes inevitable. Recent experience has shown that the public is ready to patronize the successes of past years and a boom in the revival field is predicted. Out-of-town exhibitors say that they are realizing better net profits with some revivals than with mediocre first run product.

Meanwhile, British producer Ralph Smart has been commissioned by the Rank Organization to make a series of films in Australia. His first year's program calls for an expenditure of about £150,000 ($600,000) to be spent on one feature, a serial of six two-reel episodes, and a dozen shorts.

William Osborne, Far Eastern representative for Monogram, has reached here for a four-month visit, en route to New Zealand.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING

OF

"TARZAN AND THE HUNTRESS"

PRODUCED BY SOL LESSER

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The greatest stars in the musical world are in

"CARNEGIE HALL"

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N. Y. PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HARRY JAMES

... and more on the next page

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The greatest stars in the musical world are in

"CARNEGIE HALL"

BRUNO WALTER

FRITZ REINER

WALTER DAMROSCH

Released thru UA

Review

"Lost Honeymoon"

(*Eagle-Lion*)

Hollywood, March 9

NOT only names to bill with—Franchot Tone and Tom Conway—but also laughs for the customers attracted by the billing are dished up here in Eagle-Lion's best offering to date. It is a neat idea, based on amnesia but not very seriously, and it gave a Hollywood preview audience a lot of solid laughs.

Ann Richards plays the girl opposite Tone in Joseph Fields' original screenplay, which opens quite seriously in London with Miss Richards determining to go to the United States in search of a soldier (Tone) who has failed to return to his wife, her friend, who has died and left their twins alone in the world. She arrives just as Tone, who does not remember anything about six months spent in England following a bump on the head, is about to wed another girl, played by Frances Rafferty. So Miss Richards pretends to be the twins' mother, which is to say Tone's wife, and from there on one humorous incident follows another in abundantly laughable succession. Lee Marcus produced and Leigh Jason directed, both with humor the single consideration throughout.

Running time, 69 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 15.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

10 AAA Boards

(*Continued from page* 1)

terest in the industry arbitration system during its final weeks of existence under the New York Federal Court decree. Under the decree, the AAA will stop accepting new cases on April 1, although it will continue to process those cases pending before that date.

A case entered in the Cincinnati tribunal, reported last Wednesday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY and not yet officially announced by the AAA, brings to six the number of complaints filed last week. In addition, the Milwaukee tribunal has an appeal pending.

Activating the Omaha board, the latest complaint was filed by C. D. Frasier, operator of the Joyo Theatre in Havelock, Neb., against 20th Century-Fox, M-G-M, Paramount, RKO Radio and Warner Brothers. Frasier contends that clearance granted by the companies to the Lincoln, Stuart, Nebraska, Capitol, Varsity, State and Colonial theatres, all of Lincoln, is unreasonable. He seeks reduction of clearance enjoyed by the Lincoln, Stuart, Nebraska and State to 14 days and by the Varsity and Colonial to one day.

In addition to the case now before the Omaha board, there are three in New Haven, one in Chicago, four in New Orleans, three in New York, one in St. Louis, six in Boston, one in Albany, two in Cleveland and one in Cincinnati.

New Clearance Case Filed in Cleveland

The second clearance complaint before the Cleveland tribunal of the American Arbitration Association has been filed by the Orville Theatre Co., operating the Orr and Grand theatres in Orville, O., against RKO Radio, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, M-G-M and Warner Brothers.

The Orr, in asking that all clearances be removed, reports that it is subject to 42 days' clearance after first-runs in Canton, O., by M-G-M and Paramount, to 14 days after Wooster and Massillon by Warners and 14 days after Wooster by 20th-Fox and RKO. Schine's Wooster and Wayne theatres of Wooster, Warners' Lincoln in Massillon; the Weslin and Grand, also in Massillon, the Massillon Theatre Co., and Warners' Ohio and the Loew theatres in Canton are named as interested parties.

Anti-Tax Committee To Invade Albany

Spurred by the shortage of time available before the New York Legislature adjourns this month, and by the knowledge that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's sponsorship of bills which have already been introduced in the Senate and Assembly to empower cities and counties to tax theatre admissions up to five per cent calls for an all out fight, New York City's exhibitors have already mapped plans for full-scale, organized attack on the Governor's tax proposal. A committee has been appointed to prepare arguments against further theatre taxes with a view toward securing a Senate committee hearing.

Among those who were present at the anti-tax meeting at Century Circuit headquarters which resulted in the committee's formation were: Fred J. Schwartz, Sam Rosen, Joseph R. Vogel, Oscar A. Doob, Malcolm Kingsberg, Morton Sunshine, William Brandt, Emanuel Frisch, Myron Siegel, Robert W. Coyne, Rodney Smith and Sam Shain.

Astaire Studios Open

Theatrical and film press representatives attended a reception at the weekend at the opening of the Fred Astaire Dance Studios here. Charles L. Casanave, former film distribution and sales executive, as well as head of Casanave-Artlee Pictures, is vice-president and general manager.

Columbia Plea

(*Continued from page* 1)

augurate a new system as of this July 1. The high tribunal is expected to rule on appeals from Columbia, as well as the government and all other defendants, early next year.

Universal, which has applied for a stay of competitive bidding but not of single sales, except insofar as multiple sales are contained in existing contracts, has pointed out to the Supreme Court through attorneys Thomas Turner Cooke and Charles D. Prutzman that many exhibitor organizations have opposed the bidding system and that the Department of Justice objects to it as "unenforceable."

Details of the Universal application for a stay were reported Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Goldwyn-Selznick Astor Deal Ending

Samuel Goldwyn and David O. Selznick will lose their priority on bookings at the Astor Theatre, Broadway "showcase," upon the expiration early next month of an agreement under which they contracted to share the house on an alternating basis. Maurice Maurer, who manages for City Investing Co., owner, has announced here that the deal will not be renewed, thus clearing the way for other product, and not alone Selznick's and Goldwyn's.

Selznick's "Duel in the Sun," which figured in a controversy last November involving United Artists and the Astor concerning a booking, has yet to be set for any New York first-run. However, Milton Kusell, general sales manager of Selznick Releasing, has reported that an opening is expected to be agreed upon next week. He added the film will play on a "grind" policy and at advanced admissions, which will be determined by whichever theatre gets the picture.

The Astor expects to holds its present tenant, Goldwyn's "Best Years of Our Lives," until next September. A spokesman for the house said that the present scale of $2.40 top will be lowered when any business decline so warrants and this he anticipates about May.

Montgomery in U-I Unit

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—Heading his own production unit in a deal that calls for his services as director and actor also, Robert Montgomery has signed an exclusive, long-term contract with Universal-International, according to an announcement by William Goetz, U-I production chief.

Laboratory Strike

(*Continued from page* 1)

held at the Hotel Diplomat yesterday afternoon and a request sent to Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, by John J. Francavilla, the local's president, seeking strike sanction, indications pointed to the probable walkout tonight of laboratory technicians.

Negotiations were broken off abruptly Friday morning, Francavilla said. He charged that employers did an about-face on agreements already reached and insisted that the union accept certain contract revisions prior to discussion of the union's wage requests. The union's demand for wage parity with West Coast technicians, he added, was to have been discussed at the Friday session.

Only RKO Radio and National Screen Service, neither of which participate directly in the industry negotiating committee, will escape the tie-up if it is called, Francavilla indicated. Among the laboratories which will be affected are Pathe in Boundbrook and New York, Paramount News and Paramount Pictures, two Warner Brothers' laboratories, Republic's Consolidated and 20th Century-Fox's De-Luxe.

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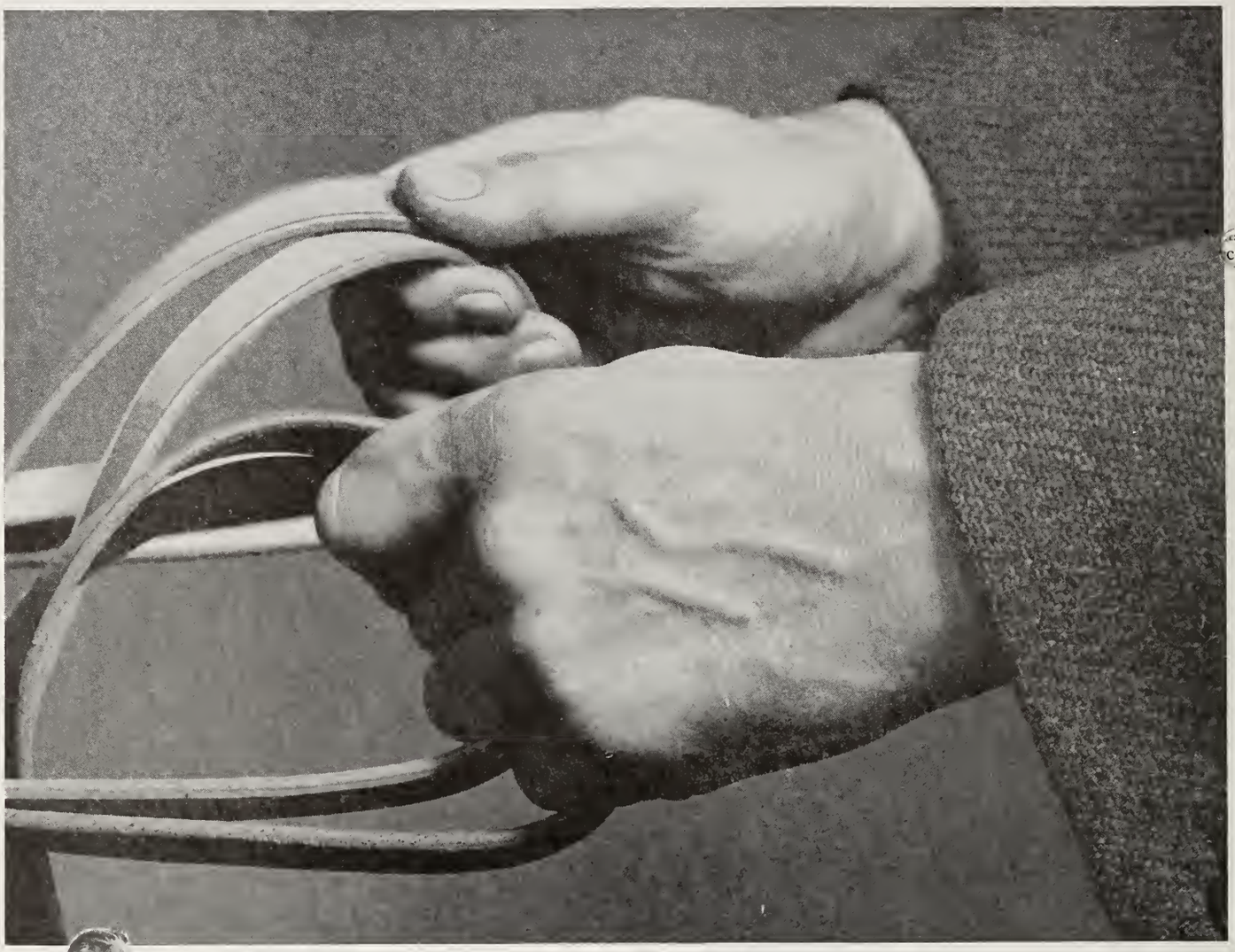

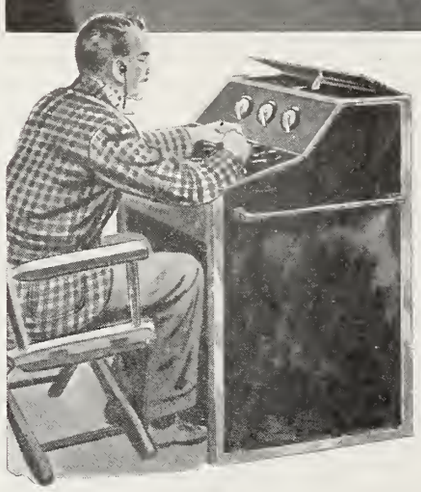

He holds the reins on sound . . .

• As a skilled horseman controls a horse by his touch on the reins . . . now light, now firm, giving, taking—so does the production sound mixer control sound . . . amplifying, modulating . . . correlating sound with action in proper perspective.

In this day when the reality of sound must be absolute, the mixer's work has high importance. His knowledge of his art must be complete, his skill in using it great . . . for on him depends much of a picture's power to move and hold an audience.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 48 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1947 TEN CENTS

Drop Idea of Voluntary Arbitration

Companies Hold Court's Suggestion Impractical

Following discussion of continuing the industry arbitration system on a voluntary basis, as suggested by the New York Federal District Court, counsel for the five threatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit have virtually abandoned the project, it is understood.

Conclusion reached in the discussions, according to a spokesman for the attorneys, is that the voluntary system would be impractical.

"Such arbitration," he said, "would be fine for the people who agree to it, but the people who don't agree would be the ones to give the trouble." Under the existing arrangement, which the court has ended as

(*Continued on page* 8)

Petition to Keep Building Controls

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Commissioner D. S. Myer of the Federal Housing Authority has asked Congress to continue controls over private building for another nine months in order to assure success of the veterans' housing program.

Myer addressed his appeal to chairman Jesse P. Wolcott, of the House Banking and Currency Committee. Wolcott is the author of a measure now pending which would immediately open the door for commercial construction projects.

In his confidential reports to the

(*Continued on page* 8)

K. Collins Joins Donahue and Coe

Kenneth Collins, publisher and general manager of the European edition of the *New York Herald Tribune*, has resigned to join the advertising firm of Donahue and Coe, Inc., in a senior executive capacity. He will assume his new duties on April 1. The advertising agency handles the Loew Theatres account and others.

Collins has had a career in the fields

(*Continued on page* 8)

New Films Help NY 1st Runs; 'Pursued,' 'Boomerang' Lead

Although a general improvement in New York first-run business has yet to materialize, new product came to the aid of three situations this week.

"Pursued" proved a smash box-office performer in its opening at the Strand, where a non-holiday weekend record was established. The film, supported by Louis Prima's orchestra on the stage, drew a mammoth $42,000 Friday through Sunday, indicating a first week's gross of about $80,000.

At the Roxy, "Boomerang" is clearly demonstrating pulling power aplenty, with $100,000 rung up in the first five days. Ed Sullivan and Katherine Dunham head the stage bill at the house, which looks good for

(*Continued on page* 8)

Film 'Famine' Over, Exhibitors Claim

ELDORA, Ia., March 10.—The film shortage of the past four years has been replaced by "plenty of pictures in a matter of days" because distributors are liquidating their backlogs, Leo F. Wolcott, chairman of the board of Allied of Iowa and Nebraska, declares in a current membership bulletin. He urges exhibitors to take ad-

(*Continued on page* 7)

Goldwyn Leasing of Theatres Begins

Samuel Goldwyn's plan to lease small theatres for day-and-date engagements of "The Best Years of Our Lives" is being carried out in a number of widely scattered situations. The film opened Friday at the State and Palmacelia in Tampa, Fla., and will open April 4 at the Arcadia and Pix in Philadelphia and the Lower Mall and University in Cleveland. Also understood to have been obtained for the picture are the Plaza and Visulite in Charlotte.

Admission prices are being advanced at all of the houses.

E-L 'Invades' S. America

The American Eagle-Lion company, by virtue of commitments made to J. Arthur Rank, is launching an "invasion" of Latin America, and by June will have opened nine distribution offices in Mexico and Central and South America, Sam Seidelman, Eagle-Lion and Producers Releasing Corp., foreign sales manager, disclosed here yesterday.

By the end of 1947, 14 Latin Ameri-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Partners' Bids Are Subject of Controversy

Undecided If Partly Owned Houses Must Bid

Parties to the New York Federal Court's industry decree appear involved in a controversy over whether a theatre owned jointly by a distributor and an exhibitor partner must participate in bidding for the product of that distributor when a competitive exhibitor requests it.

This would be for the interim period between July 1, when bidding goes into effect, and Dec. 31, 1948, when the distributors are to hold theatre interests of less than five or more than 95 per cent. Loew's and B. S. Moss, for example, have the Criterion on Broadway on a 50-50 basis. Moss, Jr., stated he does not know to what extent he could become involved in bidding.

Determination of the question is

(*Continued on page* 8)

MPA, Foundation May Affiliate

The 28th annual dinner-dance sponsored by the Motion Picture Associates will be held Friday evening, May 16, at the Waldorf-Astoria, here, it is announced by Fred J. Schwartz, president of the organization. This year, MPA visualizes joining the

(*Continued on page* 7)

Plan Advertising Drive to Defeat N. Y. Tax Measure

With the New York State legislature pressing for adjournment this Saturday night, but likely to be delayed, exhibitors are planning to launch an all-out advertising campaign, if necessary, to head off passage of a bill to empower cities and counties to tax theatre admissions up to five per cent, as suggested by Governor Dewey.

A committee headed by J. Henry Walters of RKO Theatres and Sam Rosen of the Fabian circuit is seeking a conference with the Governor prior to the adjournment date, and the advertising campaign is being held in reserve, to be used if they fail to secure an appointment, it is understood.

If the campaign is resorted to, it will make use of newspapers, radio, billboards and other available media, pointing out that the authorized tax,

(*Continued on page* 7)

UK Ends Theatre Closing Regulations

London, March 10. — All theatres have resumed full-time operations as of today, as a result of continuous intensive Cinematograph Exhibitors Association representations at the Fuel Ministry. In granting theatre re-openings, however, the government has stipulated that they must save one-third of electric power on the basis of that which they consumed prior to the coal crisis; exhibitors have agreed to cut all auxiliary lighting, and will concentrate power expenditure on the showing of films.

Johnston Arranges Anniversary Dinner

Washington, March 10.—A dinner to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Motion Picture Association of America and the production code will be held in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria in mid-May. MPA president Eric Johnston made arrangements for the dinner here before departing for Hollywood.

Will H. Hays became the first president of the National Association of the Motion Picture Industry, predecessor of the Motion Picture Association, on March 5, 1922.

Personal Mention

S. BARRET McCORMICK, RKO Radio director of advertising-publicity, is due here today from the Coast.

•

SAM SIRITZKY, vice-president of Siritzky International, will return here Thursday from France aboard the *S. S. America* which will have JOSEPH SIRITZKY among its passengers when it departs March 19.

•

DONALD MILLER MERSEREAU, associate publisher of *Film Daily*, is convalescing at his home here after six weeks in Doctors Hospital. His leg was fractured when he was hit by a hit-and-run driver.

•

AL LICHTMAN, M-G-M studio executive, is recovering satisfactorily from his recent operation, but will remain in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles, for several weeks.

•

GORDON WHITE, MPA Advertising Code Administrator, became a grandfather yesterday when a boy was born to his daughter, MRS. GEORGE HILL.

•

BERT SANFORD, Altec executive, and MRS. SANFORD, have returned to New York from a six-week tour of the South.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M distribution chief, will leave Hollywood for New York by train tomorrow

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, is vacationing in Florida.

•

WILLIAM J. KUPPER, 20th Century-Fox general sales manager, is in St. Louis from New York.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic vice-president, is due here from the Coast on Monday.

Brooklyn Premiere Forestalls Boycott

Brooklyn's first world film premiere will take place tonight, when M-G-M's "It Happened in Brooklyn" will have its first public showing at Loew's Metropolitan Theatre. The recently-created First Families of Broklyn, Inc., had threatened a boycott of the film if Loew vice-president Joseph R. Vogel had denied the borough the opening.

'Egg' Opening Benefit

The Damon Runyon Memorial Fund for Cancer Research rather than Tent No. 25 Variety Club, Los Angeles, will be the beneficiary of the premiere of Universal-International's "The Egg And I", at the Carthay Circle Theatre, Los Angeles, on March 21, U-I announces here. The suggestion came from the club.

CSU Wires Hartley, Taft After Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—The Conference of Studio Unions has wired Sen. Robert A. Taft and Rep. Fred A. Hartley, Jr., chairmen of the Senate and House labor committees, urging a stand against restrictive labor legislation, following a mass meeting last night attended by 6,500 union members, representatives of civic groups and others.

CSU president Herbert Sorrell expressed confidence at the meeting that his recent abductors would be apprehended. Telegrams to local authorities urged perseverance in putting an end to recent violence in the strike. The Association of Motion Picture Producers was again charged with responsibility for the violence through its failure to negotiate a settlement.

End of Strike Seen In 2 or 3 Weeks

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Dan Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, looks for a settlement of the jurisdictional strike in the Hollywood studios "within two or three weeks." He is not planning, however, to send 400 striking electricians back to work across Conference of Studio Unions picket lines. Decisions of that type are handled on the Coast by local leaders, Tracy said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Fred A. Hartley, Jr., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, has appointed Rep. Richard Nixon of California to study the situation in Hollywood and considers conducting a special probe into the studio jurisdictional dispute. Oscar Schatte, head carpenter, told the committee at the weekend that the violence between the two rival carpenters' unions is "appalling."

Revision of the Wagner act to include a ban on jurisdictional strikes was criticized in the Senate today by Sen. Wayne Morse, who said such a ban could come about only by cooperation between unions.

Schlaifer to South On Promotion Mar. 17

Continuing his policy of making periodic trips into the field to consult with exhibitors and theatre advertising men, Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity for 20th Century-Fox, will leave New York on March 17 for a swing through the South, accompanied by Rodney Bush, exploitation manager for the company. They will visit Atlanta, Charlotte, Jacksonville and Miami to discuss advertising and exploitation plans for the company's 1947 product.

'Yearling' Sets Mark

CHICAGO, March 10.—"The Yearling" has set a new record for an M-G-M picture during its first two weeks at the State Lake here, with a combined 14-day gross of almost $100,000. "Valley of Decision" had been the record holder.

IATSE Move Staves Off 'Lab' Tie-up

Intervention by the IATSE, through the appointment of James J. Brennan, a vice-president, to proceed with further attempts at bargaining has halted preparations by Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians, local No. 702, IATSE, for a strike against 18 film laboratories here. The strike was scheduled to start at 12:01 A.M. this morning upon expiration of the union's contract with the employers.

Brennan was appointed yesterday by Richard F. Walsh, "IA" president, after John J. Francavilla, president of local No. 702, informed him last Friday that negotiations between the union and the laboratory representatives had been broken off. Under the IATSE constitution, the local was obliged to request aid from the International before proceeding to more drastic action. Francavilla declared that talks will probably be resumed in a few days.

A strike-vote meeting held here Sunday afternoon voted confidence in the local's negotiating committee and empowered it and the executive board to call a strike if further efforts at peaceful settlement of a contract fails.

The employers' group, in the meantime, have indicated to Walsh that any conclusive negotiations would be retroactive to today, the date for operation under a new contract, Francavilla revealed.

UA Officials Return From Sales Talks

Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of production, and other United Artists home-office executives returned here yesterday, following a fourth and final regional sales meeting in Chicago. The other meetings were held in Buffalo, Pittsburgh and El Paso.

Accompanying Sears here were: J. J. Unger, general sales manager; Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director; Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern and Canadian sales manager; Jack Wrege and Robert Goldfarb, of the home office sales department. Maury Orr, Western sales manager, remained in Chicago for further discussions with Rud Lohrenz, Midwest district manager.

Cohn and Montague Contracts Up Today

Ratification of employment contracts for Jack Cohn and A. Montague, approval of the issuance of options for common stock and the election of seven directors will be considered here this morning at Columbia's annual stockholders' meeting.

The proposed contract with Cohn would date from Jan. 1, 1947, while the agreement with Montague would date to June 10, 1946, allowing him, additionally, an option for 10,000 shares of common stock. Both contracts extend for seven years.

Others to be voted stock options are: B. B. Kahane, 10,000 shares; Lester W. Roth, 5,000; Irving Briskin, 3,500; Gerald Rackett, 1,000 shares.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

2nd HIT WEEK!
"UNUSUAL! SUPERIOR!" —Times
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
LORETTA YOUNG
DAVID NIVEN
The PERFECT MARRIAGE
IN PERSON
MOLLY PICON
Extra!
Eddie PEABODY
plus Others

Paramount presents Paulette Goddard Fred MacMurray in "Suddenly, It's Spring"
In Person JOHNNY LONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA
JOAN EDWARDS
LEWIS & VAN
BUDDY LESTER
DON BAKER of the organ
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE

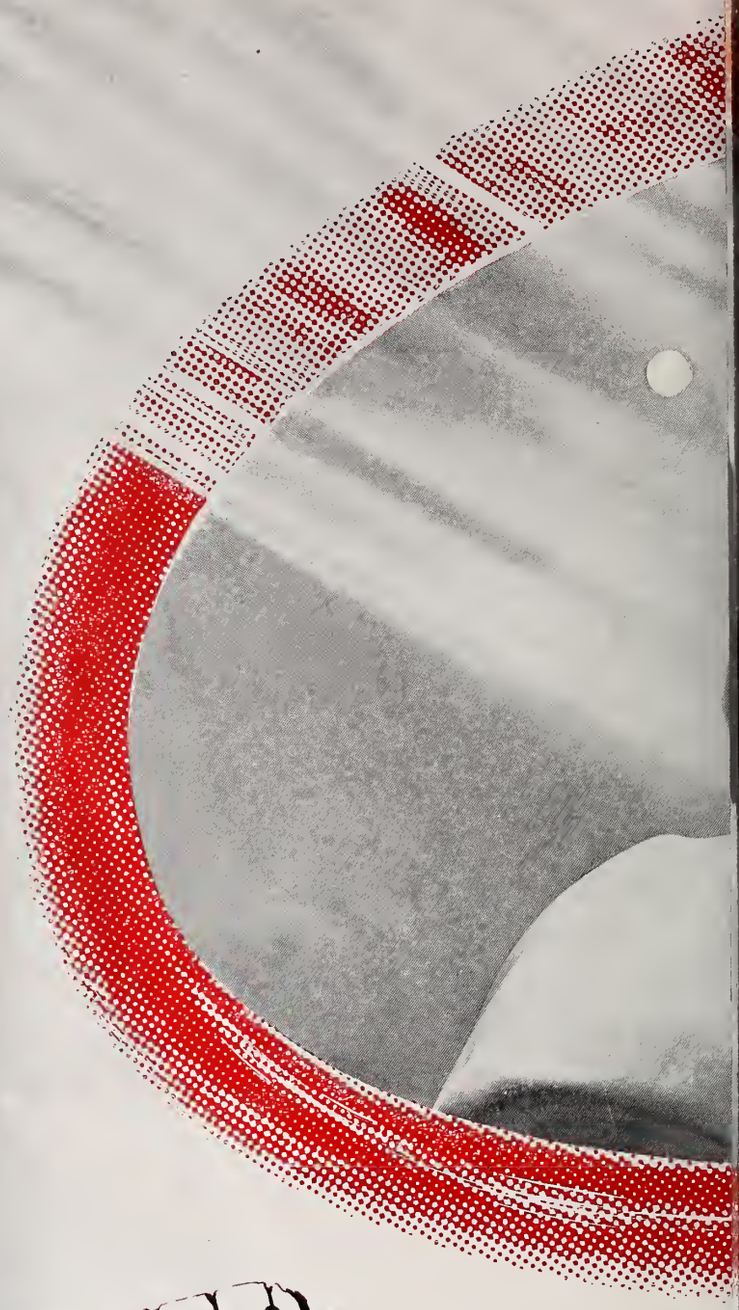
"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpuhco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

What is the one guilt most women would rather die than confess?

WHAT WAS THE SIN OF JANET AMES?



the most provocative love drama of the year!

The

COLUMBIA PICTURES
presents

ROSALIND RUSSELL ☆ MELVYN DOUGLAS

The Guilt of Janet Ames

with SID CAESAR · BETSY BLAIR · NINA FOCH

Screenplay by Louella MacFarlane, Allen Rivkin, Devery Freeman

Directed by HENRY LEVIN

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Typical of the powerful magazine pre-selling campaign!

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Coming Events

Today—Toledo Variety Club inauguration dinner.

Mar. 13—Academy Awards presentations, Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles.

March 17—New Jersey Allied meeting at New York headquarters.

March 19-20—Griffith partners and managers meeting, Oklahoma City.

March 20 — Meeting of Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers Association, Drake Hotel, Chicago.

March 24—Industry meeting on campaign for Greek War Orphans fund, Hotel Astor, New York.

March 25 — Balaban and Katz "alumni" dinner, Beverly-Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, Cal.

March 25-26—Rocky Mountain area exhibitors meeting on possible affiliation with Allied States. Brown Palace Hotel, Denver.

March 26—Motion Picture Association annual meeting, New York.

March 27—Testimonial for Charles Boasberg, Hotel Astor, New York.

March 27—Annual ASCAP meeting, Ritz Carlton Hotel, New York.

Screen Guild Signs King

HOLLYWOOD, March 10. — Screen Guild Productions has signed with independent producer Max M. King for a minimum of one feature production a year.

Victor Potel, 57

HOLLYWOOD, March 10. — Victor Potel, pioneer film actor and one of the original Keystone cops, died at his home here after a short illness.

N. Y. Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

when added to the existing 20 per cent Federal admission tax, will result in a ticket levy exceeding, proportionately, the imposts on jewelry, fur coats, night clubs and race tracks. Sentiment for defeat of the measure also would be sought through a special screen trailer.

The Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association is spearheading the drive, with the American Theatres Association lending assistance.

Dismiss PRC Counter Charge; PRC of Cuba

In a general denial of allegations made by Producers Releasing Corp. in its reply to a suit for alleged breach of distribution contract instituted by PRC of Cuba, the company's franchise holder in that country, the plaintiff seeks dismissal of counter-claims raised by the defendant, according to papers filed in U. S. District Court here. The proceeding by PRC of Cuba seeks more than $250,000 damages allegedly because PRC Pictures failed to give the plaintiff its full product quota as stipulated in the distribution contract.

PRC, in its counter-claim, charges that the Cuban company owes it more than $200,000 on the contract.

G. Hoover Elected Miami Variety Head

MIAMI, March 10.—George Hoover has been elected chief barker of the newly-formed Miami Variety Club. Mitchell Wolfson was named first assistant chief barker; Dick Sachsel, second assistant; Al Weiss, property master; Sidney Meyer, dough guy; Arthur Schwartz, fixer, and Tom Jefferson, chief biller. Herb Elisburg heads a five-man sideshow committee formed at a luncheon addressed by Mark Wolfe, national chief dough guy.

R. E. Martin Honored

ATLANTA, March 10.—Roy E. Martin, head of Martin's Theatres and one of the state's veteran showmen, was honored at Variety Club headquarters here late last week by more than 250 industry representatives at a dinner marking his 35th anniversary in show business.

MPA May Affiliate

(*Continued from page* 1)

Motion Picture Foundation and is therefore dedicating the dinner as a tribute.

Directors of MPA have eliminated the customary request for donations and this year organizations and individuals will be asked to subscribe for tickets only. As in previous years, a feature of the dinner will be the presentation of an award for distinguished service within the industry.

In explaining the elimination of donations, Schwartz said: "Motion Picture Associates looks forward to the possibility of a new alliance with the Motion Picture Foundation which will become the parent charitable association of the industry. It will be proposed to the national trustees of the Foundation that Motion Picture Associates can serve as the administrative agency in this area, and we will find ourselves in the position of having sufficient funds to operate for a while longer."

UK in No Rush to Cut Imports: Cripps

LONDON, March 10.—The British government does not feel it should embark upon a hurried policy of cutting further imports, Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, said today in opening a House of Commons debate on the international economic situation. International films, he said, are important in providing relaxation. Cinematographic bill is expected to be introduced shortly.

Referring to what he called a serious dollar shortage, Cripps said the British industry is trying to counter the tendency of using money on imported foreign films by improving their own films. In that direction, Cripps said, "we are having very considerable success—so much so that the amount of foreign exchange spent on films is falling."

Allied, ITOA Talk Deal

The possibility of New York's Independent Theatre Owners Association joining Allied States still exists, with a meeting of representatives of both groups coming up this month, probably at the Hotel Astor here.

'Famine' Ended

(*Continued from page* 1)

vantage of the situation by buying "only the best pictures" and not the "poor and unsuitable ones." This will do more than anything else to improve product quality, according to Wolcott.

High flat-rental demands are rapidly replacing percentages, he notes.

The Iowa-Nebraska chief urges exhibitors to "get in on the ground floor" of the Motion Picture Foundation, which he says "will give, for the first time, a definite future to industry people."

The organization's annual convention will be held at the Fontanelle Hotel, Omaha, on May 5-6, Wolcott announces, adding that regional meetings are being held in Decorah and Osceola, Ia., this week and that the Allied Caravan now is visiting the Iowa-Nebraska territory. At a recent meeting in Storm Lake, film rentals, competitive bidding and theatre overhead were discussed.

Wolcott's bulletin urges exhibitor opposition to three bills pending in the Iowa legislature. One calls for licensing distributors at $1,000 per year, plus one dollar per reel for all films brought into the state; another would create a state censor and licensing department; the third would provide inspection by the state fire marshal of places of public assembly where film is used.

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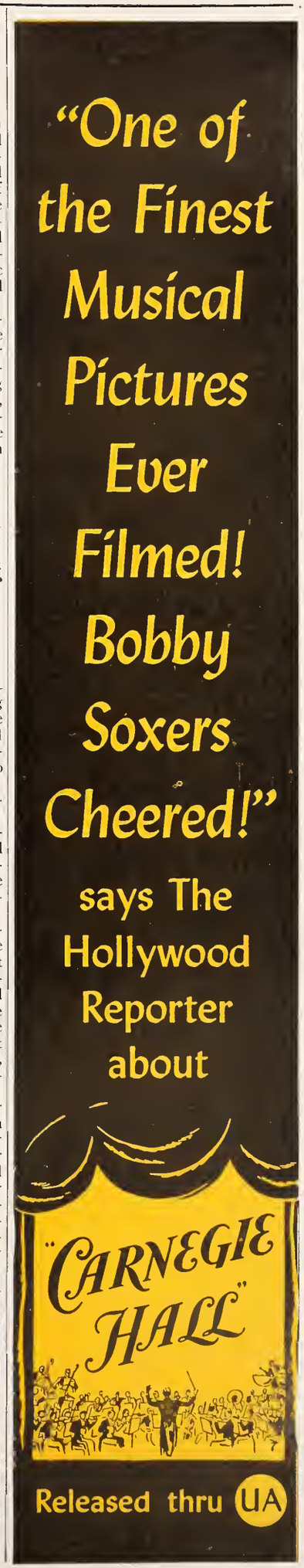
FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS



Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

BALTIMORE

Business has taken a turn for the better, improving over the past fortnight. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13:

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M) — CENTURY (3,000) (29c-37c-46c-54c and 56c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000)

CALIFORNIA (Para.) — KEITH'S (2,406) (29c-37c-44c-50c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — NEW (1,800) (28c-40c-50c-58c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — STANLEY (3,280) (29c-37c-50c-58c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,500)

DEAD RECKONING (Col.) — HIPPODROME (2,205) (29c-37c-50c-59c) 7 days. With stage show. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $17,500)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) — TOWN (1,450) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $11,500)

CALENDAR GIRL (Rep.) — MAYFAIR (1,000) (21c-29c-45c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,500)

BRIEF ENCOUNTER (U-I) — LITTLE (328) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,000)

TORONTO

Torontonians are digging themselves out of a big snowfall and theatres are doing reasonably well. Estimated receipts for the week ending Mar. 12-14:

HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC) and BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,800)

THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL (WB)—IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $14,300)

THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M) — LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $13,800)

THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $14,800)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,400. (Average: $11,900)

HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC) and BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio) — VICTORIA (1,240) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6-500)

CINCINNATI

Returns for current offerings are about average, with "Stairway to Heaven" setting the pace. The weekend weather was moderately warm. Estimated receipts for the week ending Mar. 11-14:

THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE (Rep.) — RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-65c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Stage: Vivian Blaine, Sonny Dunham's orchestra, and acts. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $30,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)

FLIGHT TO NOWHERE (Screen Guild) and NORTH OF THE BORDER (Screen Guild)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,600. (Average: $1,600)

THE PERFECT CRIME (Popular) and THE SECRET EVIDENCE (Popular)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,050. (Average: $1,100)

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $8,000)

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I) — KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $7,500)

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS (WB) and DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL (RKO Radio)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $5,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—RKO PALACE 2,700) (50c-55c-60c-70c-75c-85c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)

BEDELIA (PRC)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Grand. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000)

New York Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

$125,000 for the week. The third new one to score is "The Thief of Bagdad," reissue, at the Victoria, which figures to take in a handsome $24,000 for a first week.

Two others also made their debut, "Blaze of Noon," at the Rivoli, where the gross probably will be about $30,000, which is fair enough, and "The Years Between," playing the Park; the latter is the first to play the Park on a straight, popular-price basis, and about $10,000 is indicated for the 587-seat theatre.

"Sea of Grass," with a stage show at the Music Hall, drew $77,000 on Thursday through Sunday and apparently will wind up the week, its second, with a healthy $120,000. The third week of "Beginning or the End" is not too impressive at the Capitol, which anticipates $55,000. Kathryn Grayson is on the stage; "It Happened in Brooklyn" will open there Thursday.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is still dealing in blue chips at the Astor with a very substantial $45,000 apparent for the 16th week. "Song of Scheherazade" is good for $27,000 in its second week at the Criterion. At the Paramount, "Suddenly It's Spring" is holding up fairly well in a second week, with a $72,000 gross looked for; Johnny Long's orchestra is on the stage. "Angel and the Badman" is good at the Gotham, with a $19,000 gross likely for the second week.

"Nora Prentiss" should bring in $19,000, which is profitable, in its third week at the Hollywood. The Palace envisions a good $24,000 for a seventh week of "Sinbad the Sailor"; "The Locket" is next, opening on March 19.

At the Globe, "Strange Woman" is falling off to an estimated $18,500 in its third and final week; "The Red House" will follow on Saturday. "I'll Be Yours" is headed for a slim $12,000 in a third and final week at the Winter Garden; "Stairway to Heaven" will open there on Friday.

"The House with Seven Gables," a reissue, will do about $7,000, which is average, at the Rialto, and will be succeeded by "Dangerous Millions," to open on Friday. "Henry V" is still making money at the John Golden, where the 28th week's gross was $8,000.

Building Controls

(*Continued from page* 1)

committee, Myer stated that it is important for controls to continue until there is no longer material shortages. Indications are that the house will not vote to continue the controls, which now prohibit the remodelling or construction of theatres. The Chamber of Commerce has urged the banking committee to vote a "quick" end to regimentation of the construction industry.

Alexander Film Co. Elects Directors

COLORADO SPRINGS, March 10. — Stockholders of the Alexander Film Co. have elected the following directors; J. Don Alexander, Don M. Alexander, Don Alexander, Jr., Vernon A. Cheever and Thomas M. Burgess.

The board of directors also elected the following officers: J. Don Alexander, president; Don M. Alexander, vice-president; M. J. McInaney, vice-president; Don Alexander, Jr., vice-president, and E. B. Foster, secretary-treasurer.

Burns Heads Local 23

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 10.—J. F. Burns, Jr., has been elected president of IATSE local No. 23, Providence. Other officers: vice-president, George Walker; recording secretary, Fred Newcomb; financial secretary-treasurer, Frank Walker; business agent, William O'Hearn; to the executive board, Fred Bartlett, Chester Carty, Edward D'Adrea and Ralph Fields; trustees, Charles Broomfield, Joseph Hall, Ralph Burns.

M. C. Levee Honored

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—M. C. Levee, chairman of the 1947 Permanent Charities Committee Appeal, has been awarded a scroll of appreciation for his work by Committee backers. Among those attending the presentation ceremony were Edward Arnold and George Bagnall.

Washington Tax Hearing

The District Committee will hold a hearing on a proposed special admissions tax for Washington on March 18.

Kenneth Collins

(*Continued from page* 1)

of advertising, merchandising and journalism, first as director of publicity and advertising, and later as executive vice-president of Macy's, during the period when their annual sales increased from $43,000,000 to over $100,000,000. This was followed by an association with Gimbel's as general manager of their New York store.

His entry into the publishing field, as assistant to the general manager of the *New York Times* was followed by a short period as executive vice-president of the Arthur Kudner Agency. World War II interrupted his agency career temporarily, and for the past two years Collins has been publisher of the Paris edition of the *Tribune*.

Partners' Bids

(*Continued from page* 1)

obviously important since about 1,500 houses around the country are operated in partnerships, mostly by Paramount which has about 1,000.

The question was put to as many attorneys as could be reached and all came up with only what they "presumed" to be the answer. The decree directs that the distributor company may give its product to ts own theatre without bidding. The film lawyers thereupon "presume" that partly-owned houses would get product the same way. A Department of Justice spokesman, however, takes the position that these theatres must bid because "there cannot be any discrimination."

An RKO Radio attorney put it this way: "It is a controversial subject not yet met. No decision has been reached."

E-L Invades

(*Continued from page* 1)

can offices will have been set up, according to Seidelman, who will leave here for Mexico City in May to establish the first office there. Thereafter he will proceed to Panama, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Trinidid, Puerto Rico and Cuba to organize other outlets. "We shall open Latin American offices wherever other companies are operating," Seidelman said, pointing out, however, that PRC will not participate in the venture since that company holds distribution contracts with Latin American agencies.

Seidelman said he has in mind several individuals for managerial posts in Latin America, but has not yet entered into negotiations with any. Meanwhile, he said, Eagle-Lion is about to close a distribution deal with a Canadian sales organization.

Recently Seidelman returned here from a four-and-a-half month survey of the Philippines, China, Siam, Indo-China, Hong Kong and Singapore to determine the extent of the Rank distribution setup in those areas. PRC will soon open in Manila what will be its only distribution office in the Far East, he reported.

He discovered, he said, that film business is now at a low point in the Philippines, having fallen as much as 40 per cent between December and February, due to a "tightening up" of money. "Small" pictures are suffering most there, he added. Audiences throughout the entire East, he reports, have "gone overboard" for color pictures, to the extent that exhibitors are demanding two color films for every black-and-white.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

of April 1, except for the disposition of complaints pending on that date, specific legal machinery was set up for bringing into each case, either as parties or intervenors, all theatres which would be affected by a ruling. Under a voluntary arrangement, however, intervention procedure would be difficult to provide, thus creating the danger that lawsuits by non-parties might follow the decisions in many instances.

This danger, magnified by the fact that numerous exhibitors and exhibitor organizations are on record as opposed to arbitration, is understood to have prompted the attorneys to drop the court's proposal, although the way still may be open for interesting distributors in the voluntary plan if sufficient theatre owners should ask that it be effected, thus demonstrating that any system established would have widespread exhibitor support. Such a movement was expected to be launched at a meeting on arbitration and a motion picture forum, originally scheduled to open here yesterday, but it was called off because too few of the invitations sent out by Fred Wehrenberg, MPTOA president, were accepted.

Meanwhile, however, the distributors which were parties to the industry consent decree continue to press for the continuance of compulsory arbitration system. They have appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court for reversal of the New York court's order discontinuing the arrangement, but it is indicated that they will not ask for a stay of that order pending the high tribunal's ruling.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 51. NO. 49 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1947 TEN CENTS

IATSE Favors Jurisdictional Strike Curbs

Walsh Says It Would Support Legislation

The IATSE stands ready to support Congressional legislation banning jurisdictional strikes, provided the measure drawn is "constructive and workable," Richard F. Walsh, "IA" international president, declared here yesterday. He warned, however, that drawing a bill to meet these requirements is a difficult problem.

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, recently appeared before a Congressional committee to urge the outlawing of jurisdictional strikes such as the Hollywood studio strike.

Walsh and other "IA" officials stand ready to testify before the House

(*Continued on page* 5)

4 New SRO Offices To Be Set by Kusell

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Milton S. Kusell, general sales manager of Selznick Releasing Organization, arrived here yesterday from New York preparatory to setting up new SRO sales offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Salt Lake City, and to arrange for more West Coast openings of "Duel in the Sun."

Additional SRO offices will be opened within the next 30 days, Kusell said, adding that SRO product will be physically handled by National Film Distributors. He said person-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Carry Tax Battle To Albany Today

Members of the exhibitor committee opposing passage of a New York State law permitting municipalities to place a tax of as high as five per cent on theatre admissions will meet with representatives of both branches of the state legislature in Albany today.

As reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the exhibitors stand ready to carry their fight to the public through an extensive advertising campaign but are holding this step in

(*Continued on page* 5)

500 Millions Expected from 20% Tax In 1947; Truman Signs Excise Bill

Washington, March 11.— President Truman today signed into law the excise tax continuation bill which continues indefinitely the wartime 20 per cent admissions tax.

The Treasury Department estimates that the admission tax will produce more than $500,000,000 during 1947.

While the Treasury and the Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation are studying possible future reduction of the excise rates, a change is not probable before July, 1948, or even later, it is said.

Col. May Drop 'Smaller' Films

That Columbia has been weighing the possibility of eliminating its "smaller" pictures because of high production costs was indicated yesterday by Jack Cohn, executive vice-president, at the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

In addition to discussing changes in selling methods necessitated by the New York Federal Court decree and the consequent need for "piling up" of inventory, the stockholders ratified employment contracts for Cohn and A. Montague, re-elected its seven directors and approved the issuance of options for common stock to Montague and four others.

At a meeting following the stockholders' meeting, the board re-elected the company's officers.

The new contract with Cohn, which will continue for seven years from last Jan. 1, provides for a salary of $2,500 weekly and an expense allowance of $300 weekly, compared with $2,000

(*Continued on page* 5)

Minneapolis Would Triple Theatre Tax

MINNEAPOLIS, March 11.—This city's license commission plans to increase annual fees for theatres which would lift the total income from the source about three times, the greater rise hitting smaller theatres, according to Stanley Kane, executive director of North Central Allied.

Opposing plans for increases, as suggested by the city engineer, Kane urges the commission to abolish the present zone system and establish a flat rate on per-seat capacity. His suggestion was taken under advisement and will go before the city council on Friday.

Kane raised objection to the engineer's charges that it costs the city an average of $228 annually to police each theatre. He said the requested increase was the highest of any business group in the city.

10-Year SAG Pact Ending

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Clearing the decks for contract renewal negotiations with producers in May, seven Screen Actors Guild executives who have financial interests in pictures in which they appear resigned today.

Those who resigned were Robert Montgomery, president; Franchot Tone, first vice-president; Dick Powell, second vice-president; and Board members James Cagney, John Garfield, Harpo Marx and Dennis O'Keefe.

The Board appointed Ronald Reagan as president; Gene Kelly, first vice-president; William Holden, second vice-president, and George Murphy, third vice-president.

The SAG announcement said of the resigning executives: "They feel that they should not hold office in the Guild as long as their present status in the industry continues."

The SAG pact is 10 years old.

Coast Pool Split Details Are Set

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—Representatives of Paramount have arrived here from New York for the purpose of taking over three Fox West Coast houses under the split-up of the pooling arrangements operated by FWC, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 3. Publix will take over the Paramount, St. Francis and State and will establish a local office. Consummation of the deal is expected within a week.

Meanwhile, FWC's Rialto will go to Golden State Theatres, leaving FWC with four local houses, the Fox, United Nations, Warfield and El Capitan. In return FWC will take one Reno, Nev., house from T. and D. Jr., Enterprises and one Visalia and one Hanford theatre from Golden Gate.

Necessitated by the New York Federal court decree in the industry anti-trust suit, the split-up will affect 17 theatres in California.

Poll to Decide Road Showings For Enterprise

Public Interest Study Under Way: Schaefer

Pioneering in a movement said to have possibilities for extensive use among independent producers faced with the problem of whether to lease theatres for roadshowing costly films after the industry anti-trust suit decree goes into effect on April 1, Enterprise Productions is conducting a survey of potential audiences for "Arch of Triumph" prior to setting a selling policy on that picture, George J. Schaefer, Enterprise distribution vice-president, announced here yesterday.

The survey, designed to get a cross-section view of interest in seeing the film, is being conducted throughout the country among people in different age and income brackets, Schaefer said, indicating that unless the novel on which the picture is based has aroused sufficient anticipation among those able to pay advanced prices, the

(*Continued on page* 4)

Code Anniversary Reported in Error

In connection with Eric Johnston's announcement Monday of a dinner to be held in New York City in May in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the trade association, Motion Picture Daily yesterday erroneously stated that this event also marked the 25th anniversary of the Production Code.

The Production Code was submitted to the Motion Picture Producers Association, in Hollywood, in January, 1930, by Martin Quigley.

The Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., was established in March, 1922, under the presidency of Will H. Hays. This association was successor to the National Association of the Motion Picture Industry, Inc., which had been headed by William A. Brady. With the election of Eric Johnston to the presidency, succeeding Hays, the association's name was changed to Motion Picture Association of America.

Personal Mention

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner Brothers' vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, is due in Hollywood from New York on Friday.

•

DAVID GILTIN, THOMAS LEDGER, CLIFFORD J. COX, ASHLEY C. BATE, ALICE HOLT and NELLIE NISBET, with Paramount in England, left New York yesterday for the Coast.

•

CHARLES M. REAGAN, vice-president in charge of Paramount distribution, will leave for Hollywood on Friday and will return to New York in about three weeks.

•

ROBERT GILLHAM, J. Walter Thompson Agency account executive, will return to New York from Florida on Thursday.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount's Western division sales manager, will leave Des Moines today for Los Angeles.

•

JACK COHN, Columbia executive, left New York yesterday for Florida.

•

A. PAM BLUMENTHAL of Cinecolor will leave New York tomorrow for Hollywood.

Indecent Stage Show Bill Exempts Owners

ALBANY, N. Y., March 11.—Under terms of an amendment to the state penal law offered by Senator Mitchell of New York, an owner of a theatre would be exempt from prosecution and revocation of a license for a year, both of which are now possible, for "indecent" stage performances put on by a lessee of the theatre.

At present, actors, stage hands and musicians are exempt from prosecution for such performances; under the proposed amendment a producer and author would still be liable to prosecution. Actors Equity and the New York Theatre League are reported to be behind the measure.

Family Life Meeting Scores Certain Films

CHICAGO, March 11.—Harmful effects of certain motion pictures, radio programs and current reading matter upon family life were cited today by speakers at the 15th annual National Catholic Conference of Family Life being held here.

The Rev. Patrick J. Masterson, assistant executive secretary of the National Legion of Decency, declared that in the past 10 years the number of motion pictures rated in Class A-I (unobjectionable for all) declined from 61 to 40 per cent. He added that the number rated "unobjectionable for adults" increased from 30 to 50 per cent.

Mono. Chiefs Slate Europe Survey Trip

Steve Broidy, Monogram president; W. Ray Johnston, chairman of the board, and Norton V. Ritchey, Monogram - International president, plan to leave New York for England and the Continent next month or early in May for what is understood will be an examination of economic conditions and a survey of the company's agency operations.

Broidy and Johnston are on the Coast at present, Ritchey has headquarters in New York.

75 Exhibitors Due At Denver Meeting

DENVER, March 11.—With more than 60 individual acceptances, representing more than 85 theatres, it is expected that at least 75 theatremen, operating more than 100 theatres, will attend an Allied meeting at the Brown Palace Hotel here on March 25-26 at which it is expected there will be organized a Rocky Mountain area unit.

On hand and presenting National Allied's case will be Col. H. A. Cole, Texas Allied president and regional vice-president of the National Allied; Sidney Samuelson, general manager of Allied of Eastern Pennsylvania, and Trueman T. Rembusch, president of Indiana Allied.

On the night of the 25th there will be a get-together at the hotel, and several other events, including screenings and bridge tournaments, have been planned for the ladies. John Wolfberg, manager of the Broadway Theatre, is the chief sponsor of the meeting.

On March 28 the Rocky Mountain Screen Club will hold its annual Founders Day ball at the same hotel.

Eight More Pictures Rated by the Legion

Paramount's "Blaze of Noon" has been classified A-I by the National Legion of Decency. In Class A-II are: "The Adventuress," Eagle-Lion-J. Arthur Rank; "Cynthia's Secret," M-G-M; "Her First Affair" (French), Distinguished Films; "I Cover Big Town," Paramount; "The Macomber Affair," United Artists; "Millie's Daughter," Columbia; "Pursued," Warners.

Hughes Boosts Claim

Producer Howard Hughes, who filed a $5,000,000 triple-damage anti-trust suit against the Motion Picture Association at the time its withdrawal of the Production Code Administration seal from his picture "The Outlaw" was threatened but had not yet been effected, yesterday filed an amended complaint in the case alleging that the damages suffered have grown to $7,500,000 since the actual withdrawal of the seal.

Roxy 20 Years Old

Twenty years ago yesterday the late S. L. Rothafel opened the Roxy theatre here.

2 Cases Filed with Cincinnati AAA

Two complaints, each involving some-run and clearance, have been filed with the Cincinnati tribunal, bringing to 24 the number of cases pending before the 10 active boards of the American Arbitration Association. In addition, the AAA appeals board has received its third case, with the filing of an appeal by Ritz Theatres of Gorham, N. H., complainant in the case, from an award by the Boston tribunal.

While the existence of the appeals board will extend until it has disposed of all cases before it, under the provisions of the New York Federal Court decree, the tribunals of the AAA have been instructed to stop accepting new complaints after April 1. Liquidation of AAA activities in the industry will be completed upon the disposition of all cases pending after the end of this month.

Charging discrimination by M-G-M, Herman Hunt and Maurice Chase, operators of the Vogue Theatre, Cincinnati, maintain that the 23 motion picture houses in the Cincinnati area enjoy an availability date of the seventh Sunday following the end of the first or second week of downtown runs in their licenses with other distributors. They name the Roselawn, Bond and Emery theatres as interested parties in their request for similar availability from M-G-M. In the second case, Maurice Chase, this time representing the Ritz Theatre, names the 20th Century, Plaza and Norwood Theatres as interested parties in an identical complaint against M-G-M.

Univ. Stockholders Will Meet Today

WILMINGTON, March 11.—Reelection of 14 directors, and authorization to retire 155,000 shares of Universal common stock issued in connection with the acquisition by the company of assets of International Pictures, last summer, will be asked at the annual meeting of Universal stockholders, to be held here tomorrow.

Robert S. Benjamin, Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, J. Cheever Cowdin, Matthew Fox and Charles D. Prutzman are among those slated for reelection.

Paul Pease Named Disney Treasurer

Paul L. Pease has been appointed treasurer of Walt Disney Productions, by Roy O. Disney, president. Pease has been associated with the Disney organization for nine years, most recently as assistant treasurer.

He succeeds George E. Morris, who resigned some two years ago, the post having been vacant since that time.

ASCAP Meeting Here

ASCAP's annual meeting and dinner will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here on March 27. Annual officers' reports will be given at an afternoon membership meeting.

Newsreel Parade

JOHN L. LEWIS, President Truman, Ambassador Lewis Douglas, ice-skating champion Barbara Ann Scott, David Lilienthal, Joan Fontaine, and Hitler's cameraman figure in events recorded by current newsreels. Also spotlighted are baseball training, skiing, the S.S. John Ericsson fire, Mt. Etna in eruption, and zoo activities. Full contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 56—Truman says economic peace depends on U. S. Mt. Etna in eruption. *S.S. John Ericsson* destroyed by fire. High seas wreck ship. Senate labor committee hears John L. Lewis. Barbara Ann Scott, girl skating champ. Sports: St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox in training, ski school for kiddies.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 254—Mt. Etna erupts. Fire perils *Queen Elizabeth*. Lewis Douglas, new U. S. Ambassador to England. Worst Jap train wreck. Marmoset monkey nursery at Bronx Zoo. Basket bonnets for spring. Skiing in New Hampshire. World's ice queen.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 57 — Japan's worst train disaster. Senate hears John L. Lewis. Crisis hits Europe's displaced persons. Zoo News: Animals get spruced up for spring.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 59—David Lilienthal confirmed by Senate sub-committee. Mt. Etna erupts. Lewis Douglas, new U. S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Truman speaks at Waco, Tex. Hitler's cameraman convicted. Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals in training.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 20 — President Truman warns of trade war. John L. Lewis blasts the Government. Jap railroad wreck—178 die. Blaze wrecks liner in New York Harbor. Mt. Etna goes on rampage. Lewis Douglas sworn in as U. S. envoy to Great Britain. Joan Fontaine leaves for Caribbean cruise. Golden Gloves tournament of champs. Youngsters learn to ski at Hanover, N. H.

MPA Members Had A Fireless Year

WASHINGTON, March 11. — There was no fire loss or personnel fire injury at any film exchange in the U. S. during 1946 under Motion Picture Association inspection, Eric Johnston, president, reported today. Thirty thousand miles of film was handled every day in film exchanges, A. S. Dickinson, head of the MPA's conservation department reported.

It was the 10th year since 1926 that the department was able to report no losses. The only reported film handling fire last year was in Chicago in an independently-operated film exchange outside of the scope of MPA inspection. The fire cost $500 and the death of one person because a carelessly discarded cigarette fell into a drum of worn out film.

MPA's Allen to Europe

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Rupert Allen has left here by plane for New York en route to Paris where he will become assistant to Frank McCarthy, Motion Picture Association's Continental representative.

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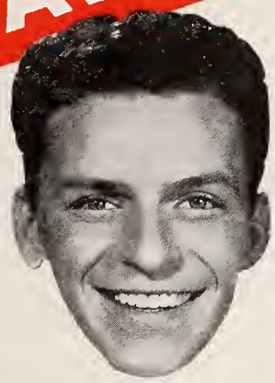
FRANK
SINATRA



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Red Kann, of Quigley Publications says your picture is: "A tip-top package of entertainment!"

KATHRYN
GRAYSON

Oh, Kathryn!

Boxoffice Magazine says your picture is: "Great! One of those pictures that bulges theatre walls."

PETER
LAWFORD

Oh, Peter!

Variety says your picture is: "A star-studded and sock box-office entry!"

JIMMY
DURANTE

Oh, Jimmy!

Hollywood Reporter predicts for your picture: "Box-office returns and enthusiastic word-of-mouth."

M-G-M

Oh, Leo! They're talking about

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Screen Play by Isobel Lennart
Based on an Original Story by
John McGowan • Directed by
RICHARD WHORF • Produced
by JACK CUMMINGS • A
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Business has been unexceptional, with holdovers at all but six first-run theatres. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 12:

THE MICHIGAN KID (U-I) and SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,100)
THE YEARLING (M-G-M) — CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) $1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 11th week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,500)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,200)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M) — EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $18,100)
THE MICHIGAN KID (U-I) and SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.) — EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,800)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $19,000)
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.00-$1.50) 7 days, 7th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,100)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio) — FOX - BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 11th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $12,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,300)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (UI),—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,900)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and CIGARETTE GIRL (Col.)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. Average: $19,800)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (UI)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,200)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $28,600)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES—(2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $22,600)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,700)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $14,200)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,400)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,700)
THE MICHIGAN KID (U-I) and SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $18,500. Average: $18,800)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and CIGARETTE GIRL (Col.) — PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $20,800)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.) — PARAMOUNT (Downtown (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $26,600)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Hollyfood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,100)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (UI)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,600)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (UI)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $6,100)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (UI) — UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $15,800)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $13,200)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO) — VOGUE (800) ($1.00-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $18,200)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $15,500)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $14,900)

PHILADELPHIA

"The Jolson Story," in its second week, still is the box-office leader, with two newcomers, "Pursued" and "Boomerang," also drawing nicely. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11-13:

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,800)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,600)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $21,000)
MILLIE'S DAUGHTER (Col.)—EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Lionel Hampton. Gross: $32,500. (Average, for 7 days: $31,700)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—(3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $25,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $24,000)
JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,500)
TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (M-G-M)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,200)
PURSUED (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $29,500)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $46,500. (Average: $27,000)
THE FABULOUS DORSEYS (UA)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $12,700)

PITTSBURGH

"The Best Years of Our Lives" easily broke the house record at the Fulton in its opening week, topping the theatre's previous title holder, "The Kid from Brooklyn," by $15,000. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13:

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $9,700)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $11,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $25,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Penn. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,500)
IT'S A JOKE, SON (PRC)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,200)
PURSUED (WB) — STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Stanley. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)

OMAHA

Theatres generally are doing better than average business. The weather has been somewhat warmer than in recent weeks, although there have been occasional snowfalls. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 12-13:

CALIFORNIA (Para.) and LADY CHASER (PRC)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, moveover from Paramount. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,500)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.) and PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,900. (Average: $9,300)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,600)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio) and SINGING IN THE CORN (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c). Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,600)

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Canadian Pioneers Name New Officers

TORONTO, March 11.—A directors' meeting of the Canadian Picture Pioneers here has elected E. Lawson, head of Odeon Theatres, as chairman of the finance committee. Len Bishop, manager of the Tivoli Theatre here was named entertainment chairman, succeeding Jack Arthur, who has moved up to the vice-presidency. A. W. Perry of this city was named chairman of the organization committee.

'Brooklyn' in Brooklyn

Guests of the First Families of Brooklyn, newly-created organization of Brooklyn boosters, New York wire service and syndicate writers, columnists, film critics and news photographers journeyed from New York to Brooklyn last evening for the premiere of M-G-M's "It Happened in Brooklyn" at Loew's Metropolitan Theatre. It was that borough's first big-time film premiere. Participating in the stage show were Lauritz Melchior, Kathryn Grayson, Johnnie Johnston and Tom Drake.

A BUY-TRANS-LUX MOVIE SCREEN
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Poll to Decide

(*Continued from page* 1)

leasing of theatres would be an unwise investment. Under the decree in the industry suit, distribution contracts may not specify minimum prices, but there is no limitation on prices in houses controlled by the distributor.

Schaefer said Enterprise will appoint advertising and publicity chiefs in the near future.

Scouting reports that Enterprise is having financial difficulties, Schaefer declared that with "Ramrod" in release and "Arch of Triumph," "The Other Love" and "Body and Soul" virtually finished, the company has a valuable backlog ready for liquidation. Two other films, "Wild Calendar" and possibly "The Pursuit of Love" will be made this year, thus completing the list of six committed to United Artists for domestic distribution.

Although Schaefer will devote full time to Enterprise, his production financing company, George Schaefer Associates, will continue, the executive declared.

Commenting on the previously reported deal whereby reissue rights to some 350 Universal features, short subjects and serials are being acquired for distribution through a new company which George Schaefer, Jr., will head, Schaefer said this includes all but about 60 of the pictures Universal has or will have made between 1933 and the end of 1947. An investment of approximately $1,500,000 is involved, he confirmed. The new company probably will handle the releases directly in New York, Philadelphia and Boston and through franchise holders elsewhere. First of the pictures will be placed on the market in July.

Four New SRO Offices

(*Continued from page* 1)

nel for West Coast offices will be announced next week.

The company has already established offices in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Des Moines, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Boston and Buffalo.

'Duel' Brings $40,000 in 11th Week in Los Angeles

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—"Duel in the Sun" grossed $40,000 in its 11th week at the Vogue and Fairfax Theatres, Los Angeles, bringing to $429,273 the overall gross of the picture since it opened, the Selznick Releasing Organization reports. The latter figure exceeds by 43 per cent the gross attained by "Gone With the Wind" during its first 11 weeks.

Switch SRO Ad Account

The Selznick Releasing Organization has withdrawn its advertising account from Foote, Cone and Belding in favor of another agency, according to Paul McNamara, SRO executive. MacNamara will leave here for the Coast tonight.

'Amok' Ban Upheld

ALBANY, N. Y., March 11.—The Board of Regents' ban on the French picture, "Amok," has been unanimously upheld by the Appellate Division. It was described as "indecent and immoral."

Balaban Holds Two Million Para. Notes

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.—Brisk activity in film stocks was noted from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10 in a Securities and Exchange Commission report released here today. The largest holding was credited to Barney Balaban, who revealed that he has 2,000,000 two and three quarter per cent conversion notes in Paramount. Also at Paramount, Balaban sold 900 shares, Henry Ginsberg sold 300 shares, and Leonard Goldenson sold 300 shares jointly with his wife, leaving his holdings at 2,100 shares.

At RKO, Frederick L. Ehrman disposed of 2,300 shares of common leaving his holdings at 200. At Universal, Daniel M. Schaeffer sold 2,100 shares of common, bringing his total to 18,307; Charles Prutzman sold 350 shares, leaving his holdings at 20,550; Nate Blumberg sold 200 shares in November; J. Cheever Cowdin reported holdoing 11,637 shares.

At Warner Brothers, Jack L. Warner reported holding 429,000 shares of common, and his trust acquired 700 more shares, bringing his total to 20,000. Albert Warner reported holding 430,000 shares with his trust now holding 20,000 shares with the acquisition of an additional 600. Samuel Schneider purchased 500 shares.

At Monogram, Norton V. Richey exercised an option and purchased 2,500 shares of common, bringing his holdings to 7,754 shares.

J. E. Brulatour, Inc., reported the addition of 17,092 shares of Associated Motion Picture Industries, Inc., in a stock splitup, bringing its holdings to 34,184 shares.

Kanin Names Gerson

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Hal Gerson has been named Eastern representative of Kanin Productions to handle deals on story properties, talent and general business.

Tax Battle

(*Continued from page* 1)

abeyance pending the outcome of today's talks.

The committee, newly appointed to present the exhibitors' views to the lawmakers, consists of Oscar Doob, of Loew's; Robert Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association; Fred Schwartz, representing the Metropolitan Theatre Owners Association, and Harry Brandt of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York. They have replaced a preliminary study committee, of which J. Henry Walters of RKO Theatres, and Sam Rosen of the Fabian circuit were members.

PRESS BOOKS PHOTO-OFFSET
COLORCHROME CORP.
ART SERVICE
2 BROADWAY NEW YORK 4
WHITEHALL 4—3722-3-4-5-6
• COPYWRITING
• ILLUSTRATION
• PASTE-UP
• STORING
• MAILING
A Complete Service

Newsreel Theatres Income Is Down 25%

Newsreel theatres have experienced a business reduction of about 25 per cent since the war, Norman Elson, vice-president of Trans-Lux, declared here yesterday. He said subjects of late have been lacking in importance and interest in comparison with the war reels, consequently cutting revenue.

Johnston to Discuss Price Successor

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, who arrived here this morning from Washington, will discuss with studio heads, during a 10-day stay, a successor to Byron Price who resigned a few weeks ago as MPA Hollywood vice-president to become assistant secretary-general of the United Nations. Other matters affecting Hollywood operations of the MPA also will be discussed. Meanwhile, Johnston will speak at the award ceremonies of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Thursday evening.

MPA executive Joyce O'Hara has also arrived here from the East.

PRC, Eagle-Lion Meet

CLEVELAND, March 11.—PRC and Eagle-Lion held a district meeting here over the weekend at the Statler Hotel. William S. Shartin, E-L district manager and James Hendel, PRC district manager, were in charge.

Roth Heads PRC Drive

Max Roth, Eastern sales manager for PRC has been named captain for the "Harry Thomas Drive," which starts on Apr. 23, Thomas's birthday, and runs through Aug. 30.

Columbia

(*Continued from page* 1)

weekly and $200 for expenses weekly under a previous agreement. Montague, whose new contract also extends for seven years, from June 10, 1946, will now receive a weekly salary of $2,500, compared with $1,500 weekly formerly. Details of stock options voted to B. B. Kahane, vice-president and studio executive; Lester W. Roth, Irving Briskin and Gerald Rackett were reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 18.

Although Harry Cohn, president of Columbia, has been working without a contract since June 30, 1945, contract proposals for him were not introduced at the meeting because, according to a company spokesman, they still are being negotiated.

Renamed to the board were Harry and Jack Cohn, A. Schneider, Montague, Nate Spingold, Donald Stralem and Ted Blancke.

Remarking on the court decree in answer to a question about dividends raised by a stockholder, Schneider, company treasurer, explained that operations under competitive bidding will require the amassing of a large inventory, thereby necessitating the "tying up" of profits. The release of product has been delayed in the past few months, it was pointed out, because of the change in selling technique.

Says Bidding Spurs Theatre Expansion

Competitive bidding yesterday was given as a factor in Trans-Lux's determination to expand its theatre holdings, by Norman Elson, vice-president. He said in effect that the acquisition of houses now operating or the construction of new ones will become all the more practical when bidding will offer an equal opportunity to obtain product.

Elson coupled this with the gradual easing of building restrictions as prompting renewed interest in theatre expansion. He said that Trans-Lux is now negotiating for a "couple of circuits," but declined to elaborate.

Elson said that his policy on bidding has yet to be determined. The Boston Trans-Lux operates profitably with secondary product shown first-run, he pointed out, adding that he would have to await further developments to decide on the feasibility of seeking top-notch films by bidding.

Trans-Lux's consideration of new theatres was made known some time ago but the program was stymied by Government priorities. The circuit has property at 59th St. and Madison Avenue here for a new feature house, opposite its newsreel theatre. It has, too, the site for a planned "Radio City" in Washington, also as previously announced.

IATSE Favors

(*Continued from page* 1)

Labor Committee, which has been holding hearings on proposals to ban jurisdictional strikes, he declared yesterday following publication of testimony given before that group at the weekend by Oscar Schatte, Hollywood "boss" carpenter. Schatte's inference that the "IA" has been responsible for violence is without foundation, Walsh declared in a telegram to Rep. Fred A. Hartley, chairman of the committee. "This false charge is intended to bolster up a dying morale on the part of those who have been duped by false propaganda," he said. "A complete investigation will show the American people who are the truly responsible parties in the Hollywood conflict," Walsh added.

Declaring that he had always opposed violence, Walsh reported that the strike continues to dwindle toward a conclusion. The 1,500 striking building service employes have just been ordered back to work, and the 400 striking electricians are likely to be ordered back before the end of the week, he said. However, there is no early termination in sight for the walkout by 2,000 carpenters and 900 members of the painters' union, Walsh added. Negotiations with William Hutcheson, international president of the carpenter group, apparently are at a standstill, according to the "IA" chief, who said he had not heard from Hutcheson for several weeks following preliminary reports to settle their jurisdictional differences.

HOLLYWOOD, March 11. — Reports that IATSE president Richard Walsh had forecast settlement of the studio strike before the weekend were protested by Conference of Studio Unions officials, who declared that Walsh could not speak for the painters and carpenters, who comprise the majority of the workers on strike.

"CAPABLE OF REGISTERING MIGHTILY AT THE BOXOFFICE!"
Says Variety of
"CARNEGIE HALL"
Released thru UA

as a matter of fact . . . . .

In Charleston, W. Va.,
the picture that's topping
UA's current top box-
office product
is
"ABIE'S IRISH ROSE"

In Cumberland, Md.,
next to
"I'll Be Seeing You" and
"Since You Went Away",
the top UA grosser
is
"ABIE'S IRISH ROSE"

In St. Paul, Minn.,
the picture that touches
the average *weekly* figure
in just *four* days of boff business
is
"ABIE'S IRISH ROSE"

AS A MATTER OF FACT. . . . the picture that's doing tremendous business *wherever* it plays is

"ABIE'S IRISH ROSE"

from UA!

Dick POWELL · Evelyn KEYES

JOHNNY O'CLOCK

IS PROVING ONE OF THE BIG MONEY PICTURES OF THE YEAR!

✓ CHECK SAN FRANCISCO (3 weeks)

✓ CHECK OAKLAND (4th week)

✓ CHECK PHILADELPHIA (3rd week)

✓ CHECK READING (10 days)

✓ CHECK OKLAHOMA CITY (2 weeks)

and watch the list grow!

DICK POWELL · EVELYN KEYES

Johnny O'clock

with Lee J. COBB · Ellen DREW · Nina FOCH
S. THOMAS GOMEZ · JOHN KELLOGG

Screenplay by Robert Rossen · Directed by ROBERT ROSSEN
Produced by EDWARD G. NEALIS · Associate Producer MILTON HOLMES

A COLUMBIA PICTURE

COLUMBIA PICTURES

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 51. NO. 50 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1947 TEN CENTS

Majors Offer 17 Per Cent Salary Boost

Year's Cost Estimated At $11,000,000 by MPA

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Major producers today offered an 11-point, 17 per cent cost-of-living wage increase to approximately 15,000 production employees, representing all unions and guilds with which the Association of Motion Picture Producers holds executed contracts. The percentage coincides exactly with figures released by the U. S. Department of Labor showing the living cost rise in the Los Angeles area between July 1, 1946, and Jan. 1.

The increase, which is retroactive to Jan. 1 and effective until Dec. 31, is in compliance with the interim agreement entered into as a step toward ending the two-day studio strike last July 1, when all unions received a 25 per cent increase retroactive to Jan. 1, 1946. An identical increase was given the Screen Extras' Guild last month under the terms of a special contract it held.

The only unions not receiving the

(*Continued on page 7*)

SAG Sets April 15 Contract Talk Date

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—In letters to 400 producers, including the New York group, the Screen Actors' Guild today set April 15 as the starting date of negotiations for a new contract to replace the present pact, which expires a month later.

Naming 17 members to represent itself, the SAG suggested that the producers set up a numerically simi-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Set Republic Annual Meeting for April 1

Walter L. Titus, Jr., Republic's vice-president and divisional sales manager, and Arthur J. Miller, manager of Republic's Consolidated Film Industries, have been renominated for two of the five vacancies on the board of directors to be filled at the annual stockholders' meeting here on April 1.

Other candidates for the three-year

(*Continued on page 7*)

Mexico Majors Expanding To Exhibition

By LUIS BECERRA CELIS

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—Producers entering exhibition as well as distribution is the latest trend in the Mexican film industry policy, somewhat like that of major companies in the U. S. It is said to have been prompted by too many theatres in too few hands, a circumstance obviously much to the disadvantage of producers in the matter of playing time and percentages accruals, and, it is complained, largely responsible for so many Mexican pictures—at present estimated at about 50—being kept from exhibition in Mexico.

Filmex, one of Mexico's four leading producer-distributors, has pioneered in this departure by obtaining Government approval of plans to build and operate a circuit, primarily as an

(*Continued on page 7*)

Krumm Named SRO Division Manager

ATLANTA, March 12. — Henry Krumm, former Warner branch manager and later with United Artists, has been appointed Southern division sales manager for the Selznick Releasing Organization.

General sales manager Milton S. Kusell is now on the Coast to set up SRO sales offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Salt Lake City. The Atlanta branch is one of 16 SRO offices.

Academy Awards In Spotlight Tonight

Hollywood, March 12.—The "bests" from among 65 industry actor, director, writer, technician and other nominees, and from among 25 films, will be announced tomorrow night during ceremonies at the Shrine Auditorium, for the annual awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

For the first time, the public will be admitted to the presentations, which, of course, will be attended by a large number of industry leaders and talent. Radio and television coverage is expected to exceed that given any previous Academy awards event.

N.Y. Owners Warn Of Peril in Tax Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12.—Arguing that the present 20 per cent Federal admission tax alone "makes the motion picture business a hazardous enterprise" and one which well might have an adverse economic effect upon theatres in the event of a business recession, a contingent of New York exhibitor association and circuit representatives today appealed to Senate Finance Committee chairman Arthur Wicks, and Charles Breitel, counsel to Gov. Dewey, for the elimination of the five per cent tax on theatre admissions which is included in the pro-

(*Continued on page 5*)

New Exchange Areas Are In the Making

Offices at San Antonio, Jacksonville Planned

Division of several of the distribution industry's 31 exchange areas throughout the country into smaller units as the competitive bidding system of selling films gains momentum appears to be imminent, with Jacksonville, Fla., and San Antonio, Texas, already tentatively selected as new exchange cities in negotiations for sites now being carried on by at least two companies. This marks the first time in many years that new exchange areas have been set up.

Paramount, which up to the present has maintained only a shipping station at Jacksonville, hopes to establish a full exchange there to relieve the load of business facing the Atlanta office under the new method of decree selling, a spokesman for the company said here yesterday, and Warner Brothers

(*Continued on page 5*)

No U.S. Opposition To Universal Stay

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The Department of Justice does not plan to oppose Universal's application to the Supreme Court for a stay of competitive bidding and other features of the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit, it is understood here. Frequently, as a

(*Continued on page 5*)

Competitive Bidding on Big Scale in Chicago Area

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO, March 12.—Loew's, Paramount, RKO Radio and 20th Century-Fox, comprising half of the distributor defendants affected by the provisions of the New York Federal court decree, already are engaged in offering their product to competitive bidders in this territory, although not compelled by the decree to do so until July 1.

At least 20 theatres in this exchange area, and perhaps many more, are known to be engaged currently in bidding for pictures of the four companies. Moreover, it has been ascertained that whenever any theatre here requests pictures or a run of the four companies not heretofore enjoyed, machinery immediately is put in motion to obtain bids from the theatres involved.

Indications are that Chicago is the foremost experimental station and proving ground for competitive bidding in the country today.

It is apparent that no common policy on bidding procedure is shared by the distributors. Each company appears to be feeling its own way into the new marketing system, guided perhaps only by the individual way in

(*Continued on page 7*)

RKO to Maintain Advertising Level

RKO Radio's advertising outlay will not be cut, S. Barret McCormick, advertising-publicity director, declared here yesterday upon his return from Hollywood where campaigns on new

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"High Barbaree" and "High Conquest" are reviewed on page 8.

Key city grosses are given on page 6.

Personal Mention

HOWARD DIETZ, vice-president and director of advertising-publicity for M-G-M, will leave Hollywood for New York by train tomorrow. SI SEADLER, advertising director, will leave here for the Coast on March 20.

•

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal-International advertising - publicity director, is in Santa Monica Hospital with a broken heel bone sustained in a fall from a ladder at his Hollywood home.

•

N. E. SAVINI, assistant to ROBERT M. SAVINI, Astor Pictures president, is in New York from Atlanta. The latter has returned here from a three-day trip to Canada.

•

LEW BREYER, manager of the Strand, Westfield, Mass., has returned to his desk after a two months' absence, completely recovered from a recent operation.

•

STEPHEN E. FITZGIBBON, SR., president of the Devonshire Film Co., Boston, and MAXWELL ANDELMAN, vice-president, are on a two-week Mid-West tour.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner's Western division sales manager, and JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern division sales manager, have left New York on Mid-western tours.

•

F. L. HOPPER, transmission engineering supervisor of the Electrical Research Products division of Western Electric, has arrived here from Hollywood.

•

CHARLES LEVY, Eastern publicity director for Walt Disney Productions, is in Bronx Hospital where he will undergo a knee operation tomorrow.

•

GLENDON ALLVINE, director of public relations for the Motion Picture Association here, has returned to New York from the South.

•

ARTHUR GREENBLATT, Eastern sales manager for Monogram, left New York yesterday for a two-week tour of the South.

•

BEN JUDELL, independent producer, will return to the Coast on Friday from New York. He will stop over in Chicago.

•

DON PRINCE, RKO Radio foreign publicity manager, has returned to New York from Mexico City.

•

PAUL O. STYKER of the Samuel Goldwyn Productions office here has left for the Coast by plane.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, Eastern district manager for Warner Brothers, is in Buffalo from New York.

•

C. J. SCOLLARD, Paramount labor relations director, was in Washington yesterday.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

THE Government collected $384,701,909 in admission taxes in 1945, in most instances a straight 20 per cent on each ticket sold. For general purposes, which are more specific than general, anyway, this indicates a national gross of $1,923,-509,545 from all forms of entertainment covered by the statute.

It has become regarded as fact that from 80 to 90 per cent of the collections are to be attributed to film theatres. Shading this further, the bracket is believed by many who have endeavored to rivet the yardstick with absolute precision, to be about 87 per cent. No one has ever declared it false.

■

Accepting this, the mathematics shows the 1945 gross from picture houses alone was about $1,673,453,304. Last year, however, collections rose $63,-537,810 for a grand total of $458,239,719. In turn, this places national gross from all sources at $2,291,198,595. By application of the same formula, film theatre intake appears to have been $1,993,342,777, which would mean an increase of $319,889,473 in 1946 over 1945.

Last year was the entertainment world's greatest, as all hands know. In connection with enacting the excise tax continuation bill, which maintains the 20 per cent tax at its present level indefinitely, the Treasury Department on Tuesday estimated a $500,000,000 tax in 1947. Evidently, official Washington is far more optimistic than many of the industry's own executives.

■ ■

From a source probably as reliable as any, which is not saying much in the light of the appalling lack of authoritative statistics on this business, is advanced the claim 65,000,000 tickets are sold each week, on an average; that 54,000,000 represent the reliables who show up, come high water and the rest of it; that the regular audience for an "A" attraction is 18,000,-000 each week.

If this is even reasonably correct, we suppose it means those 54,000,000 dependables buy tickets regardless of the merit of the film while the figures approaches 65,000,000 because large numbers of the 54,000,000 go more than once and another segment of the differential of 11,000,000 is drawn by a particular film. It ought to be understood that publication of these statistics here suggests no blanket acceptance of their reliability. They are as good as any others, marshalled from any other source and just as inconclusive.

■ ■

In Hollywood tonight, the Academy Awards for 1946 will be made known. Never before in the history of this competition has Hollywood encountered a parallel situation. England is represented by four nominations in the top categories—"Henry V" for the best picture; Laurence Olivier, who starred in it, for best actor; Celia Johnson, feminine lead in "Brief Encounter," for best actress and David Lean for best direction for the same film. If this indicates nothing else, it indicates impartiality and an evidence of fair play at the hands of the Coast colony and a demonstration which the British industry might note the further.

■

It has been custom, suggested by nobody and nothing besides enthusiasm, to draw a bead on the winners. This has been a practice never especially noted for its success, although last year was an improvement over the year before when we stood in dubious magnificence holding a bag—mostly empty.

But again we have a slant on the victors for 1946 honors. It reflects what we would decide if this business of voting were a one-man process, which it is not. You are now about to witness the leap into space:

■

Best Picture — "The Best Years of Our Lives." A difficult choice in the face of "Henry V."

Best Performance, Actor — Olivier in "Henry V." Another toughie in the light of Fredric March's beautiful performance in "The Best Years."

Best Performance, Actress — Miss Johnson in "Brief Encounter."

Best Performance, Supporting Actor—Harold Russell, the non-professional, armless veteran in "The Best Years."

Best Performance, Supporting Actress — Ethel Barrymore in "The Spiral Staircase."

Best Achievement in Direction —William Wyler, for "The Best Years."

Tomorrow morning will reveal what Academy members determine. Final box score right here in the accustomed space next week.

Universal Common Retirement Voted

WILMINGTON, March 12.—Retirement of 155,000 shares of Universal common stock, issued in connection with the acquisition of Internation Pictures last summer was approved by the company's stockholders at their annual meeting here today.

All 14 Universal directors were re-elected. They include: Robert S. Benjamin, N. J. Blumberg, Pa. G. Brown, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, Matthew Fox, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Schaeffer and G. I. Woodham-Smith.

The directors are scheduled to meet in New York on March 20 for the annual election of officers.

'Brotherhood' Cites Film Industry Aid

In recognition of the cooperation given by exchange, circuit, and theatre managers, American Brotherhood will issue a certificate of appreciation carrying the signatures of its honorary chairman, President Truman, the general chairman, John G. Winant, and the two film industry leaders, Spyros P. Skouras and J. Robert Rubin.

All managers who have secured 10 or more members and all who now plan to enroll members are urged to send in returns to Skouras at the 20th Century-Fox home office, here.

Bergman, Griffith on SPG Forum Tonight

At the first of a series of discussion panels planned by the Eastern Screen Publicists Guild, to be held tonight at the Hotel Piccadilly, here, industry executives, and others will discuss "The Future of the Films in 1947."

Among those who will present their views are: Maurice Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director for Universal-International; Richard Griffith, executive director of the National Board of Review; Hans Burger, on the staff of the film division of the United Nations, and Archer Winsten, film critic for the *New York Post*.

Skouras, Silverstone To Tour S. America

Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, is expected to return here today from the Coast prior to his joining Murray Silverstone, 20th-Fox International head, for a survey of conditions in South America. Accompanied by their respective wives, they are to leave for Latin America on Monday.

Trust Law Study Due

WASHINGTON, March 12.—A review of the anti-trust laws has been planned by the House and Senate Small Business committees. Recommendations for revision of the Sherman and Clayton acts will be requested by the groups when hearings start.

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Columbia made a better mousetrap...

and millions are beating a path to your door, Mr. Exhibitor. Yes, millions of people. More people than have ever seen any picture since GONE WITH THE WIND are seeing THE JOLSON STORY... and will see THE JOLSON STORY... in the biggest cities and the smallest towns...wherever in this broad land an exhibitor places in his marquee these proud words.....

"If you...build a better mousetrap than your neighbor, the world will make a beaten path to your door."
—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

The **JOLSON STORY** *in Technicolor*

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents THE JOLSON STORY in TECHNICOLOR with LARRY PARKS • EVELYN KEYES • William Demarest • Bill Goodwin • Screenplay by Stephen Longstreet • Directed by ALFRED E. GREEN • Produced by SIDNEY SKOLSKY

Sees Market Study Denting Trade Bars

WASHINGTON, March 12. — George Canty, State Department film consultant, declares that the film industry's analysis of foreign market problems will be an "excellent tool" to effect the elimination of foreign barriers imposed upon American films at the Geneva Trade Conference. The industry analysis was presented to the inter-departmental committee on reciprocity information recently.

Canty said the State Department will work with industry during the trade negotiations, and expressed belief that restrictions in several of the 18 nations participating will be eliminated by agreements.

Every effort is being made to open the world market for all media of communication, Canty said.

Under-Secretary of State William Clayton has pledged complete support to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association.

AGFA Color Patent Status Delays Use

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Use of the AGFA German color film process may result in a lawsuit between General Aniline and Film Corp. and the company producing it unless the U. S. Alien Property Custodian places the color patent on the open market, it is indicated here.

ANSCO, a General Aniline associate company, is now working on the color process and has it ready for inspection by producers, it is reported. Meanwhile Eastman and other raw companies are interested in further development and production of the film, but while research is being conducted by them, actual production of the color would result in a legal battle.

While the Commerce Department procured the process from the I. G. Farben film plant in Germany, that agency refuses to directly enter into the controversy over its patent. Ultimate decision permitting open market use of the film, therefore, is up to either the Alien Property Custodian or the Justice Department.

Demonstration of 'Magnetic Sound'

CHICAGO, March 12.—Marvin Camras of the Armour Research Foundation, here, will demonstrate a new invention involving magnetic sound for motion pictures when the Society of Midwest Motion Picture Engineers holds its monthly meeting here tomorrow.

According to Camras, his soundtrack may be used for 35, 16 or eight mm. films, for it allows direct playback, multiple tracks, immediate monitoring and new flexibility in arranging, editing and scoring, he said.

Altec Supplying New Test Film for Sound

Altec field engineers are now being supplied with a new theatre test film, to be used in the servicing of theatres. The new test film, developed by Altec with the aid of the research council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, will be of laboratory precision, printed on safety stock and made up of a wide variety of sections, according to Altec.

AMPA Committee Meets

The 30th anniversary dinner-dance committee of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, headed by Phil Williams, met yesterday in New York's Hotel Edison at luncheon to further plans for the event, which will be held on April 23. Others attending yesterday were: Chester Friedman, David Bader, Charles Alicoate, Harry Blair, Max Stein, Abe Dash, Herman Schlier and Jacques Kopfstein.

Korman in New Post

Howard Korman has joined Donahue and Coe, Inc., as advertising merchandising director, ending 15 years as vice-president in charge of merchandising and promotion for McCann-Erickson.

Blue Law Hearing

LENOIR, N. C., March 12.—Requests for repeal of a 1940 ordinance barring Sunday shows, baseball games and other forms of amusement here will be heard shortly by the city council.

Newsprint Shortage Hits NY Film Ads

An increasing renewed shortage of newsprint among New York City daily newspapers has brought about new reductions in space allocations for motion picture and other amusement advertising, with further reductions said to be in the offing.

The *Daily Mirror,* which is described as the most hard-pressed, and the *Post,* also seriously affected, are to establish the greatest cuts in film advertising space. According to a *Herald Tribune* advertising department spokesman that paper has not yet etsablished any reductions, but he said the paper is concerned about the general shortage and that amusement and other space will be limited if conditions do not improve. Similar situations exist with other papers.

A *Times* advertising department spokesman, who pointed out that the general shortage of newsprint stems solely from the fact that transportation is inadequate, said the *Times* is well supplied and, of course, will not limit advertising space, at least for the present.

Bill Would Prevent Race Discrimination

SACRAMENTO, March 12.—An act to prohibit discrimination on account of race or color in theatres and other public places, has been introduced in the state legislature by Assemblyman Willard M. Huyck of Beverly Hills. The measure calls for full and equal enjoyment of any "accommodation, advantage or privilege furnished by theatres or other public places of amusement."

Violators shall be liable in a civil action for damages up to $500.

Memphis Censorship Extended to County

MEMPHIS, March 12. — Memphis censorship has been extended to all of Shelby County by the State Legislature. The Memphis board of censors had objected to pictures banned in Memphis being shown just outside the city limits.

Projection Bill Passes

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12. — The Condon bill to amend the general business law to exempt school auditoriums, halls, and other similar places from the projection booth restrictions applying to theatres, has passed the State Senate. The companion Wadlin measure is on the Assembly calendar. The State Labor Department requested the bill.

Bischoff Slates Two

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Sam Bischoff, independent producer for United Artists, has established headquarters at General Service Studios and is planning two pictures, "The Pitfall" and "Intrigue."

Edgar W. Adams, 62

MONTCLAIR, N. J., March 12.—Edgar W. Adams, 62, Western Electric general patent attorney, died of a heart attack at his home here. He is survived by the widow and three sons.

Pres. Truman Sees 'Years' Third Time

WASHINGTON, March 12.—President and Mrs. Truman saw Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" for the third time last night when they attended the local premiere of the picture at Keith's.

The benefit performance was sponsored by the Washington Committee for National Civilian Rehabilitation, of which Mrs. Truman is honorary chairman. Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, among many notables present, termed the benefit "still another evidence of the heart of show business in assisting this venture in behalf of civilian rehabilitation."

Scripps-Howard Video Promised for Fall

CLEVELAND, March 12. — Television by fall is promised Ohio as a result of Scripps-Howard Radio, Inc.'s new station, WEWS, which recently announced leasing of studio quarters for erection of a micro-wave radio relay transmitter in the Allerton Hotel penthouse to beam television broadcasts to the proposed WEWS transmitter site in Parma.

Work on the WEWS studio marks the first step toward starting television broadcasts by any of the five stations allocated to Cleveland by the Federal Communications Commission. It is also the first to be taken by Scripps-Howard Radio nationally.

Radio, Video Booms Air Conditioners

CHICAGO, March 12.—The addition of nearly 1,000 standard and FM radio and television stations throughout the country will add millions of dollars to the market for air conditioning equipment, it has been disclosed here by the Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association following an analysis of 1947 and 1948 construction plans of radio and television broadcasters along with a review of the air conditioning requirements in studios and auditoriums.

DeVry Plants Closed By Union Disputes

CHICAGO, March 12.—A battle between the American Federation of Labor Electrical Workers Union and the independent International Association of Machinists has closed two plants of the DeVry Corp.

IAM has a contract with the company. However, the AFL unit claims a majority of workers. M. F. Darling, president of the latter union, asserts it is striking for a collective bargaining election.

Fay Testimonial Advanced

PROVIDENCE, March 12.—The golden testimonial dinner to be given to Edward M. Fay, veteran Providence theatre-owner, by the Independent Exhibitors of Rhode Island has been advanced to April 21 from May 1. The dinner will be held at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel here.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
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Disc Recording Facilities

500 at Television Sessions Apr. 14-15

"With a favorable Federal Communications Commission decision an imminent anticipated reality," 500 radio, advertising and television executives from all parts of the United States will meet here April 14-15 at the Hotel Commodore, it was announced by Irwin A. Shane, publisher of *The Television*, trade journal, who will be host to the gathering.

Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, television consultant, and J. R. Poppele, president of the Television Broadcasters Association, will preside as co-chairmen. Seven panels and four seminars will explore "television's challenge," with costs, programs, sponsors and equipment occupying top places on the agendas.

On hand for the discussions concerned with getting more stations and programs on the air as quickly as possible will be Dr. Allen B. DuMont; Dr. Lee deForest; Ernest B. Loveman, vice-president of Philco Television Broadcasting; Paul Raibourn, president of Paramount Television Productions; Will Baltin, secretary-treasurer of the Television Broadcasters Association; C. L. Hooper, audience research expert; William C. Eddy, manager of Station WBKB, Chicago; Paul Mowrey, national director of television, American Broadcasting; Ralph Austrian, president of RKO-Television Corporation; George Shupert, president of the American Television Society, among others.

$1,317,037 for PCC

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—The total subscribed to the 1947 Permanent Charities Committee of the industry was $1,317,037, raising the per capita average to a new high of $63.75, campaign chairman M. C. Levee announces.

Universal Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

result of the lack of such opposition the high tribunal has granted stays.

Universal's application yesterday was placed in the hands of Justice Stanley F. Reed after Justice Robert Jackson, who normally handles preliminary motions on cases from the New York Court, disqualified himself on the grounds that he was Attorney General when the original complaint was filed.

Although Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal special counsel, has requested that any arguments on the application be held in open court, it is understood that Justice Reed may hand down a ruling without the formality of a hearing. Although opposition to Universal's request is not planned, a Department of Justice spokesman said the government sees "no real reason" for granting a stay.

Along with competitive bidding, Universal would have the court stay those sections of the decree invalidating existing contracts until after a final ruling on the company's appeal. Bidding is scheduled to start July 1, while the remainder of the decree, as it affects Universal, goes into effect April 1.

Columbia's request for a stay is being prepared for filing this week. Paramount remains undecided about a similar petition. The other five defendants have indicated that they are unlikely to ask for stays.

Minnesota CIO Fights New Tax

Minneapolis, March 12. — The Minnesota State CIO has joined the fight against the Governor's proposed 20 per cent admission tax, declaring that it, along with a proposed three-cent cigarette tax, deprives the public "of a similar amount of purchasing power for necessities."

Oklahomans Argue Against Tax Bill

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 12.—A Senate committee of the Oklahoma legislature today heard arguments for and against a bill to extend the taxing powers of city governments of this state, to include levies on theatre admissions and on a variety of commodities. The committee has delayed making a recommendation until after further study.

Monogram Names Page

HOLLYWOOD, March 12. — Canadian Navy veteran Harry C. Page has been named manager of the Vancouver, B. C. Monogram exchange. Page was formerly with United Artists and Warner Brothers in that territory. He succeeds Joe Archer, who will now handle Vancouver 16mm. trade.

Convention Date Changes

COLUMBUS, O., March 12. — Final dates for the statewide convention of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio have been changed to July 13-16, at the Breakers, Cedar Point.

New Exchange Areas

(*Continued from page* 1)

is understood to be working on a similar plan. Paramount likewise hopes to lighten the pressure at Dallas by opening an exchange in San Antonio, where the industry now is represented only by two Mexican distributors.

Other points where shipping stations are maintained include: Butte, Mont., for Columbia, Loew's, Paramount, United Artists, RKO Radio and Republic; and Sioux Falls, S. D., for Paramount and RKO Radio.

The regular exchanges, through which the distribution business of most companies has been carried on, are in Albany, Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Haven, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington.

The motion picture arbitration system maintains a tribunal in each of the exchange areas, but the tribunals are scheduled for liquidation starting April 1 under the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit.

The competitive bidding clause of the decree, distribution executives have pointed out, tends to increase the detail of business with exhibitors at each exchange. Although formal bids must be sent to the home offices, they are routed from there to the field for practical handling.

Children's Program Progresses: Allvine

The Children's Film Library, fostered by the Motion Picture Association and participated in by all principal distributors, has been completely "sold" to New Orleans exhibitors who have booked all prints of the films in that area, as well as five borrowed from other territories, through June, Glendon Allvine, MPA public relations director in New York, reported here yesterday following a tour of the South and Cincinnati in behalf of the program.

Atlanta and Charlotte also have shown considerable interest in the library which consists of 27 pictures of the various companies, designed for special children's showings on Saturdays. Only 48 prints were booked in Cincinnati during the first four months of the program.

Paramount leads the list, Allvine states, with 929 bookings of its three films—"Alice in Wonderland," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" and "Little Miss Marker."

Arthur DeBra is working with Allvine at the MPA office here on promotion of the pictures. Duke Hickey, Irwin Deer and Marjorie Dawson are in the field handling the program.

N. Y. Owners Warn

(*Continued from page* 1)

posed law to empower cities and counties to increase taxes.

The group here included: Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the American Theatres Association; Oscar Doob, representing Loew's Theatres; Fred J. Schwartz, Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association president; Morton Sunshine, representing the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York; H. J. Walters, representing RKO Theatres, and Sol Ullman, representing Fabian Theatres.

They contended that films are not a luxury, and that the proposed legislation is directed against small wage-earners and children. They described such legislation as "regressive" in that it "could emasculate a medium of education, information and persuasion that has not yet attained its full growth."

The theatremen went away not too optimistic over chances that the measure would be defeated or amended. The Governor's support is believed enough to insure passage intact.

But as public opposition continues to mount against the Dewey-proposed sales and admission taxes, some possibility is seen here that the legislation will face either drastic amendment or defeat. Republican legislators from New York have sided with the Democrats who are solidly opposed to the measure. However, a Republican caucus is said to be in the offing with a view toward binding the party to insure passage of the bill unamended. The lateness in the legislative session is said to pose the main difficulty in making amendments, since all bills are required to lie on lawmakers' desks for three days before being voted upon. Adjournment of the legislature is threatened for Saturday night. If, however, the session is extended another week, amendments, including, possibly, elimination of the admission tax provision, could be made. Meanwhile, some Senators have indicated they would oppose the amusement tax if it fell on working-class theatre patrons.

"Sure to receive immediate applause! It will please even the non-musical!"

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Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CHICAGO

"The Beginning or the End" opened strong, while "The Yearling" continues to do good business. A number of other films also are grossing above average. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 12-13:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 11th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) — CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) On stage: Connee Boswell and Dean Murphy. 3rd week. Gross: $50,000. (Average: $62,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—GARRICK (1,000) (95c) Gross: $20,000. (Average: $13,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE CHASE (UA) — ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) On stage: "Showtime of 1947." 2nd week. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $48,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) and SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c) Gross: $25,000. (Average: $48,000)
THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PRC reissue) and KIT CARSON (PRC reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) Gross: $20,000. (Average: $11,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) 5th week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $20,000.
THE YEARLING (M-G-M) — STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c) 3rd week. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) — UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c) 4 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $27,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80). 12th week. Gross: $34,000. (Average: $28,000)

BUFFALO

Except for good business for "Nora Prentiss" at the Great Lakes, films at first-run theatres are playing to average business or below. The ground is still under much snow. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 15:

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $19,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $25,300. (Average: $18,000)
HUMORESQUE (WB) and VACATION DAYS (Mono.) — HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week on a moveover. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I) and CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) and QUEEN OF BURLESQUE (PRC) — TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

Business has fallen off for all films except "Smash-Up," coupled with "Accomplice," which is above average at two houses. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 14:

I'LL BE YOURS (U-I) and THE 13TH HOUR (Col.)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $14,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $32,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00) With vaudeville. 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $32,000)
SMASH-UP (U-I) and ACCOMPLICE (PRC)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $6,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) and SEVEN WERE SAVED (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (2,835) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. Average: $23,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and THE GHOST GOES WILD (Rep.)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (60c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $6,000)
SMASH-UP (U-I) and ACCOMPLICE (PRC)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $14,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $27,000)

KANSAS CITY

"Sinbad the Sailor," coupled with "Dangerous Money," is setting the pace here, with business generally being above average. There was heavy snow early in the week, temperatures falling into the 20's, but the period ended with a thaw. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11-13:

THE ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,400. (Average: $8,000)
THE ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $1,900. (Average: $1,750)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M) and BLIND SPOT (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) and DANGEROUS MONEY (Mono.) — ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $10,000)
HOME SWEET HOMICIDE (20th-Fox) and MAGNIFICENT ROGUE (Rep.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $6,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

A slump is evident here, with most grosses running below average. "Song of the South," co-featured with "Blondie's Big Moment," is an exception however. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 11-12:

NOCTURNE (RKO-Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO-Radio)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,700)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,800)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,000)
THE CHASE (UA) and THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $14,400)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.) — LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,700)

BOSTON

Although night business has held up well, daytime grosses have slumped, pulling down the over-all average. The weather has been good. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 12:

SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10) Stage show, Jimmy Dorsey and orchestra. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $31,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $5,600. (Average: $6,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $27,200)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and HER SISTER'S SISTER (PRC)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $23,000. Average: $26,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—ORPHEUM (3,200) (40c-80c). Gross: $22,000. (Average: $25,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $14,900)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $14,00. (Average: $17,000)

ATLANTA

Better than average grosses were collected by most theatres here. The weather has been fair. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 12:

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—FOX (4,661) (55c-60c). Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,000)
CROSS MY HEART (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (55c-60c). Gross: $8,300. (Average: $8,200)
IT'S A JOKE, SON (PRC)—ROXY (2,446) (55c-60c). Gross: $8,300. (Average: $5,600)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (55c-60c). Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—CAPITAL (2,446) (55c-60c) 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $4,400. (Average: $4,200)

DENVER

Fine weather helped first-runs to good business. "The Jolson Story" and "California" showed especially good grosses. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 12:

RAMROD (UA) and BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—ALADDIN (1,400) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) and CARAVAN TRAIL (PRC)—BROADWAY (1,500) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $9,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $11,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $6,000.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) and VACATION IN RENO (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $15,500)
THE MAN I LOVE (WB) and MR. HEX (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and ROLLING HOME (Screen Guild)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $2,000)

CLEVELAND

Vaudeville has returned to the RKO Palace after a 12-week absence. With "San Quentin" on the screen, the week's gross at the theatre is near the house average. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 12-13:

HER SISTER'S SECRET (PRC)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $23,800)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)
STONE FLOWER (Artkino)—LOWER MALL (563) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,500)
I'LL BE YOURS (U-I)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (60c-85c-95c). Stage: King Cole Trio and acts. Gross: $42,000. (Average: $30,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—WARNERS' HIPPODROME (3,500) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $22,600)
HUMORESQUE (WB) — WARNERS' LAKE (714) (55c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,650)

ST. LOUIS

"Swell Guy" is the leader here, with "Song of the South" also playing to good business. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 12:

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—AMBASSADOR (3,154) (50c-60c-75c) 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000)
SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—FOX (5,038) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—LOEW'S ORPHEUM (1,900) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOEWS STATE (3,154) (50c-50c-75c). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $20,000)
ANGEL AND THE BADMAN (Rep.) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.)—MISSOURI (3,514) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $9,000. (Average: $12,500)
SWELL GUY (U-I)—ST. LOUIS (4,000) (50c-60c-75c). Gross: $12,000. (Average: $6,000)

MINNEAPOLIS

Balmy weather has been furnishing somewhat damaging competition to theatre business. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13:

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week (moveover from Radio City). Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,300)
THE SHOCKING MISS PILGRIM (20th-Fox)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,250. (Average: $5,600)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $14,500)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) — RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $18,000)
PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (Col. reissue) and MY SISTER EILEEN (Col. reissue)—RKO PAN (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $8,500)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. Average: $13,000)

(*Continued on following page*)

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FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

Short Subjects

"The Teachers' Crisis"
(March of Time—20th-Fox)

In "The Teachers' Crisis," March of Time serves up a well-knit, comprehensive analysis of the jeopardy in which the American educational structure finds itself today. This is certainly one of the best MOT presentations to date and as timely as this morning's headlines. Some startling facts are revealed to explain why fully 100,000 U. S. school children are inadequately taught, and why teachers are underpaid to the extent that a full-scale exodus from the profession has been underway for a decade.

Eye-opening penetration into America's education sore-spot, aided by some first-rate dramatizing in which classroom youngsters shine, makes this subject one that can be recommended unqualifiedly to exhibitors everywhere. Running time, 16½ minutes.

"San Francisco—Pacific Gateway"
(This Is America-RKO Radio)

Careful selectivity of subject matter, points of particular interest in San Francisco, and splendid photography combine to make this newest This Is America subject a short which may be relied on for almost any program. Both camera and commentary point to the growth of the city since its founding 100 years ago, and its position in finance, commerce, and industry.

Color material includes Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. Frederic Ullman, Jr., produced. Running time, 18 minutes.

"Have You Any Castles?"
(Warner Brothers)

Characters on various book-covers come to life in this Technicolor fable, which takes place in a library. The din made by the literature people is so great that even old Rip Van Winkle cannot sleep. With the aid of other book titles, Rip gets rid of the annoyers and returns to his slumber. Running time, seven minutes.

Key City Grosses
(Continued from preceding page)

SALT LAKE CITY

Business generally is good, with "It's a Wonderful Life" in the lead. The weather continues mild and clear. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 13:

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $7,800)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,600)

QUEEN OF BURLESQUE (PRC) and SANTA FE UPRISING (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. With vaudeville. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,700)

THE ADVENTURES OF MARCO POLO (Film Classics) and NORTH OF THE BORDER (Screen Guild)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd wek. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,600)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c). Gross: $7,700. (Average: $4,800)

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $5,900)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 10 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average, for 7 days: $12,300)

Chicago Bids
(Continued from page 1)

which the decree provisions are interpreted by individual company attorneys.

Paramount, for example, affixes a minimum price tag to each picture offered to competing exhibitors who wish to bid for it, according to J. Harold Steevns, branch manager. RKO Radio, on the other hand, does not, Sam Gorelick, manager, said. Paramount allows 10 days for submission of bids; RKO up to 24 days.

Film Row opinion on the subject of a minimum price tag is divided. One executive feels that any bid in excess of the specified minimum may have to be accepted but in the absence of a minimum all bids may be rejected if they prove unsatisfactory at the time of receipt.

Independent theatres in at least three downstate theatres are known to be bidding currently against Great States Circuit, a Paramount affiliate. The Wanee in Kewanee, operated by Norton & Bramlett, is bidding against Great States' Peerless; the Avon, Decatur, operated by Gus Constan, is bidding against the Lincoln and Empress there, and Kerasotes Bros. Senate, Springfield, against Great States' Orpheum.

In Decatur, RKO offered four pictures competitively, two going to the Avon, and two to Great States. Other awards have not been made yet.

The Manta-Rose circuit, operating 29 houses in Illinois-Indiana, lost product in Michigan City, Ind., to Lewis Philon, a veteran, who reopened the Liberty there on Feb. 4. In Maywood, Ill., the Van Nomikos Circuit has asked to bid for product for its Yale Theatre against Manta & Rose's Lido.

Inauguration of competitive bidding is credited with having brought about the settlement of one anti-trust suit and one neighborhood feud already.

Philon is plaintiff on an anti-trust suit filed against Manta-Rose and distributors, alleging inability to obtain product. With bidding, he gained second run in Michigan City and can bid for first run with Paramount, Loew's and 20th-Fox. In consequence, an agreement settling his suit out of court is now being negotiated.

The product "feud" involved Jim Booth's Palace and Bartelstein's Annetta in Cicero. With the inauguration of bidding by MGM and RKO Radio, both obtained product and the feud appears to have been resolved.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *A second installment on the status of competitive bidding in the Chicago exchange area will be published tomorrow.*)

RKO Advertising
(Continued from page 1)

product were blue-printed.

Each picture will be dealt with, promotionally, as it comes up rather than being placed within the limitations of an established annual budget for advertising, McCormick said.

Top product will still be backed by extensive, nationwide campaigns. In this category are: "The Locket," "The Farmer's Daughter," "Honeymoon," "Bachelor and the Bobbysoxer," "The Long Night," Walt Disney's "Fun and Fancy Free," "Woman on the Beach," "They Won't Believe Me," Samuel Goldwyn's "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," "If You Knew Susie" and "Tycoon," among others.

Mexican Union Lifts Anti-Red Film Ban

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—Two film satires on Communism, "Ninotchka" and "He Stayed for Breakfast," are now being shown in Mexico without any demonstrations from the powerful Confederation of Mexican Workers, which prevented showing of the films in 1940 by calling strikes against theatres scheduled to show them.

The Confederation, which controls most Mexican film labor, explained at the time that it disapproved of the pictures because of their treatment of Communism. Government censors had approved both pictures, but the Confederation's walkout prevented their showing.

The fact that there were no protests this time is taken as an indication of less Communistic strength in the Confederation.

SIMPP Names Advisors

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—The Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers has appointed a six-man advisory committee to counsel executives on the recently announced collective activity program. Committee members are: Joe Alvin, chairman and Barry Buchanan, William Herbert, Jerry Hoffman, Joe Reddy and Bernie Williams.

Republic Meeting
(Continued from page 1)

terms are: Samuel Becker of the New York law firm of Becker and Berman; Harry M. Goetz, producer, and Harry C. Mills, an executive of the J. C. Penney Co. Retiring directors are: Walter P. Stevens, John J. O'Connell and Walter W. Vincent.

President Herbert J. Yates, a company proxy statement discloses, last year received $69,430 apart from his participation in consolidated net profits, which amounted to $100,000 additionally. His contract is for a five-year term, beginning Jan. 1, 1946. He will receive $75,000 a year plus 10 per cent of the annual consolidated net profits after taxes.

Majors Offer Increase
(Continued from page 1)

present offer are those on strike, the Musicians' Union (which received a special contract in New York last year), IATSE cameramen and sound men) whose contracts are still under negotiations), and others still debating points in offered contracts.

The Motion Picture Association has estimated that the increase will amount to $11,000,000 in 1947. Independent producers customarily duplicate the majors' wage scales automatically.

SAG Sets Date
(Continued from page 1)

lar committee to represent them, stating that the new contract, while admittedly complex, can be negotiated in 30 days if daily meetings are held.

Guild demands will be outlined to a full membership meeting April 9. The new pact, when completed, will also be submitted to the full membership for approval.

Mexican Union Seeks Dispute Settlement

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—President Miguel Aleman has been asked by the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, Mexico's original film labor organization, to effect a working agreement with its rival, the Picture Production Workers Union, which is dominated by the players and headed by Mario Moreno (Cantinflas).

Producers are eager for peace between the two unions which have been at odds for two years over the distribution of workers from each among the producers. Efforts are also being made to merge the two unions.

Mexican Workers To Demand 40% Increase

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—The National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union is expected to demand a 40 per cent wage increase around May or June, prior to the expiration in August of their two-year contract which American distributors made to end the 1945 strike.

Both American and Mexican distributors claim a further pay rise would eliminate all profits which are said to be averaging about seven per cent of gross income.

Mexico Expansion
(Continued from page 1)

outlet for its films. The Government has agreed to help finance plans which call for an investment of some $4,000,000 for about 10 theatres, three or four here and the others in principal provincial cities. The first, here, is nearly finished. It is expected to open in the summer. Work on the others will start as soon as possible.

That the Government has agreed to help finance the circuit is seen as a further demonstration of its policy against monopolies and for free-trade. The rest of the financing will be from Filmex's bank, the manager of which is Simon Wishnack.

Besides producing and distributing, Filmex also owns and operates Mexico's second largest studio, the Azteca, here. The company president is Gregorio Walerstein. Oscar J. Brooks, for some years Warner manager here, is distribution chief. Manuel Suarez, wealthy Spaniard who has numerous industrial interests in Mexico, is a board member.

Adding exhibition to production-distribution is also being arranged by Producciones Grovas, also one of the big four of Mexican producers, whose president is Jesus Grovas, who, 15 years ago, was Paramount assistant manager here. Grovas is completing plans for a circuit, the size of which has not yet been decided but is expected to be about six as a starter.

Production In New Climb; Up Three, to 41

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Production continues to climb, the shooting index reaching 41, compared with last week's level of 38. Three films went to cutting rooms, and six reached the stages. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Swing the Western Way," with Jack Leonard, Mary Dugan, Hoosier Hot Shots, Thurston Hall.

Shooting: "The Man from Colorado," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman); "Her Husband's Affairs" (formerly "The Lady Knew How)."

Eagle-Lion

Started: "The Red Stallion," with Noreen Nash, Ted Donaldson, Jane Darwell, Robert Paige, Guy Kibbee.

Shooting: "Out of the Blue," "Love from a Stranger."

M-G-M

Started: "Good News," with Gene Kelly, Judy Garland.

Shooting: "Song of the Thin Man," "The Hucksters."

Monogram

Finished: "Louisiana."

Started: "The Law Comes to Gunsight," with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hatton, Reno Blair.

Shooting: "Sarge Goes to College," "The Gangster" (Allied Artists).

Paramount

Shooting: "The Big Clock," "Road to Rio," "Albuquerque" (Clarion).

PRC

Finished: "Gangway for Murder."

RKO Radio

Started: "Crossfire," with Robert Young, Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan, Gloria Grahame, Jacqueline White.

Shooting: "Tycoon," "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie," "The Bishop's Wife" (Goldwyn).

Republic

Finished: "The Trespasser."

Started: "Saddle Pals," with Gene Autry, Sterling Holloway, Lynne Roberts.

Shooting: "Springtime in the Sierras."

Selznick

Shooting: "Portrait of Jennie," "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay," "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Captain from Castile," "Forever Amber."

United Artists

Shooting: "Atlantis" (Nero); "Body and Soul" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Shooting: "Jeopardy," "For the Love of Mary," "Singapore," "The Secret Beyond the Door" (Diana); "Brute Force" (Hellinger).

Reviews

"High Barbaree"

(*M-G-M*)

THOMAS MITCHELL, seafaring man spinning his tall yarns, tells his tallest to Van Johnson about an imaginary South Sea island which he calls "High Barbaree." It never was there in the first place, but it is enough to condition the life of Claude Jarman, Jr., who grows up to be Johnson and to provide the foundation line of the film, in which June Allyson is co-star.

"High Barbaree" is a pleasant enough film, with several touching moments. While no great shakes as an attraction, it ought to provide satisfaction at large and probably something beyond where Johnson displays particular strength. Most of it is told by way of flashback.

The film opens in the Pacific war zone with Johnson and the girl in loving farewell. His plane is shot down in the sea, the crew killed, except for two men. The outlook is discouraging until the chart indicates the wind is convoying the disabled plane toward "High Barbaree," or so Johnson believes. In retrospect, thereafter Johnson unfolds his life tale, the flow of the story interrupting itself intermittently to return the audience to the disabled machine.

How he and Miss Allyson grew up as kids, were separated when her family moved West and how he foregoes medicine for a quick killing in aviation are portions of the yarn. Other chapters show the girl's return—this time a woman—and how the old romance and the old ambitions are rekindled. Then comes the war. Johnson is off to combat as a flyer, she as an Army nurse. In the finale, the hospital ship—Mitchell, its captain, and Miss Allyson, one of its nurses—goes off course to locate and find Johnson.

"High Barbaree" is adventure-love-romance in standard proportions and has no villain aside from the war. Its principal performances in a cast which includes Henry Hull, Marilyn Maxwell and Cameron Mitchell, are satisfactory. Everett Riskin produced and Jack Conway directed, from a script by Anne Morrison Chapin, Whitfield Cook and Cyril Hume, from a novel by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall.

Running time 91 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

"High Conquest"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, March 12

ANNA LEE, Gilbert Roland and Warren Douglas are the principals in a triangular struggle filmed against the breath-taking scenery of the Swiss Alps. Producer-director Irving Allen, who last summer took a camera crew to Zermatt to photograph the backgrounds for this unusual film, herewith proves the validity of his contention that not all of Hollywood's resources can equal the emotional impact of man's struggle against nature, filmed on the spot and at the moment of its occurrence.

The Matterhorn, that mysteriously fascinating mountain, is at once the background for Max Trell's screenplay, and one of the participants in the drama itself. Both of the leading male characters are expert climbers, though one of them suffers from a neurotic dread of the Matterhorn, upon whose slopes his father died. Both of them are in love with the same girl, a conflict that is heightened when the three attempt the ascent of the mountain together. Roland, cast as an Alpine guide, plans to rid himself of his rival forever, and leaves the unconscious Douglas to his fate on the summit. When the girl learns of his action she learns, too, the true state of her heart. She persuades the guide to go back and rescue the man she loves. Reluctantly, he does so, and loses his own life thereby. The picture's freshness of approach, and the sense of reality which that approach conveys, make it more than ordinarily absorbing.

Running time, 83 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April 19.

THALIA BELL.

Owners May Close All Belgian Houses

By LOUIS QUIEVREAUX

BRUSSELS, March 4 (By Airmail).—Initial voting by members of Association des Directeurs de Theatres Cinematographiques Belges, Belgian exhibitor organization, shows an overwhelming number to be in favor of closing their theatres in protest against the official refusal of Economic Affairs Minister Liebaert to allow theatre operators to fix admission prices. Of the first 200 ballots recorded, 198 exhibitors are in favor of a "strike," and only two are opposed.

Warners

Shooting: "Voice of the Turtle," "Two Guys from Texas," "Wallflower," "The Unfaithful," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz).

International Film Exhibition Aug. 23

By ARGEO SANTUCCI

ROME, March 3 (By Airmail).—Venice will hold an International Cinema Exhibition beginning Aug. 23, to continue for a maximum of 18 days.

Nations having a production of more than 200 films a year may show four feature films and five shorts. Those producing from 50 to 200 a year may show two features and three shorts. Other producing countries may show one feature and two shorts.

A jury representing all participating countries will award an international grand prize, seven international prizes to features, and prizes for documentaries, cartoons and short films.

The date chosen for the Exhibition has been protested by the industry because the Cannes Film Festival is announced for Sept. 1 and there are to be festivals in Belgium and Sweden.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 12

IN a package deal, RKO Radio has acquired from Hal Wallis screen rights to "The White Swamp," as well as Lizabeth Scott and Burt Lancaster, who will be starred in the picture, Byron Haskin, who will direct, and cameraman Leo Tover. Bert Granet is slated to produce. . . . Donald (Red) Barry has been signed by Republic to a new seven-year contract. He will be starred in the forthcoming Trucolor production, "Slippy McGee."

•

"John Loves Mary," Norman Krasna's current Broadway success, will be brought to the screen by Warners. Jerry Wald has been assigned to produce. . . . Scott R. Dunlap is to take over production of "The Hunted," Steve Fisher's story which Allied Artists acquired recently from the King brothers. Jack Bernhard will direct. . . . Victor McLaglen has returned to 20th Century-Fox for his first assignment there in five years, a top role in "The Foxes of Harrow," which William Bacher will produce and John M. Stahl will direct.

•

Betty Hutton and Diana Lynn have been selected for the title roles in "The Sainted Sisters," which Mitchel Leisen will direct and Val Lewton will produce for Paramount. . . . Irene Dunne and Barbara Bel Geddes will be co-starred, and Oscar Homolka will have a top featured role in "I Remember Mama," Harriet Parsons' next production at RKO Radio. George Stevens will direct. . . . Phil Karlson has been engaged to direct "Kilroy Was Here," Monogram film starring Jackie Coogan and Jackie Cooper.

•

Diana Productions, which releases through Universal-International, has purchased "Corruption," original by Silvia Richards, reported to be based on the current gubernatorial squabble in Georgia. . . . Among those competing for the attentions of Franchot Tone in his next picture for Columbia, "Double Take," will be Janet Blair, Janis Carter and Adele Jergens. S. Sylvan Simon will produce and direct. . . . Jack Schwarz plans to produce "Western Barn Dance" for screen Guild release, and has engaged B. B. Ray, who wrote the original story, to direct the picture.

•

William Dieterle will direct David O. Selznick's production of "Rupert of Hentzau," in which Valli, Louis Jourdan and Joseph Cotten are set for stellar roles. . . . John Ford and Merian C. Cooper, who head Argosy Pictures, have signed Pedro Armendariz to star in five films for the company. . . . Patricia Marshall, young signer who scored on Broadway in "Day Before Spring," will make her film debut in "Good News," now shooting at M-G-M.

•

Michael Curtiz Productions has purchased "Shadow of Fear," original by Frances Marion, and added it to the company's production schedule for release through Warners. . . . George Archainbaud has been engaged to direct a series of seven "Hopalong Cassidy" features.

DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 51 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Argue Decree Stay Motions On March 25

To Pass on 'U' Petition; Columbia Filing Today

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Justice Stanley F. Reed of the U. S. Supreme Court has set March 25 for a hearing on Universal's application for a stay of competitive bidding and certain other sections of the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit. Thomas Turner Cooke, special counsel for the company, will present arguments for the petition.

The hearing will be held exactly a week before the April 1 effective date of most sections of the decree, and a

(*Continued on page* 9)

Pickwick Anti-Trust Suit Is Settled

The six-year old Pickwick Theatre anti-trust suit against major distributors has been settled by parties to the litigation and has been withdrawn, a stipulation on file in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals here revealed yesterday.

Counsel and representatives of all

(*Continued on page* 9)

State Senate Passes Local Levy Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—The Senate tonight passed the Burney Bill, 53-to-1, permitting counties and large cities to levy special taxes, including a five per cent amusement tax. Senator Kenneth Sherbell, ALP, of Kings County, was the lone dissenter.

The Assembly is expected to concur. The Legislature will not adjourn

(*Continued on page* 3)

New Academy Rules On Trial in Choices

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—On trial tonight before the entire industry well as before the audience which jammed the 6,700-seat Shrine Auditorium for the 19th annual Academy

(*Continued on page* 12)

Academy Winners

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tonight announced the following winners of its annual awards:

Best motion picture of the year—"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio.

Best performance by an actor—Fredric March in "The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio.

Best performance by an actress—Olivia deHaviland in "To Each His Own," Paramount.

Best performance by an actor in a supporting role—Harold Russell in "The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio.

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role—Anne Baxter in "The Razor's Edge," 20th Century-Fox.

Best achievement in directing—"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio; William Wyler.

Best written screenplay—"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio, Screenplay by Robert E. Sherwood.

Best original screenplay—"The Seventh Veil," J. Arthur Rank-Sydney Box-Ortus, Universal (British). Screen play by Muriel Box and Sydney Box.

Best original motion picture story—"Vacation from Marriage," London Films Prods., Ltd., M-G-M (British). Original story by Clemence Dane.

Best achievements in art direction—Black-and-white: "Anna and the King of Siam," 20th Century-Fox. Lyle Wheeler and William Darling. Color: "The Yearling," M-G-M. Cedric Gibbons and Paul Groesse.

Certificates of merit to interior decorators of the productions receiving awards for art direction—Black-and-white: "Anna and the King of Siam," 20th Century-Fox. Thomas Little and Frank E. Hughes. Color: "The Yearling," M-G-M. Edwin B. Willis.

Best achievements in cinematography—Black-and-white: "Anna and the King of Siam," 20th Century-Fox. Arthur Miller. Color: "The Yearling," M-G-M. Charles Rosher, Leonard Smith and Arthur Arling.

Best achievements in sound recording—"The Jolson Story," Columbia, John Livadary.

Best achievements in film editing—"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio. Daniel Mandell.

Best achievements in special effects—"Blithe Spirit," J. Arthur Rank-Noel Coward-Cineguild, U.A. (British). Thomas Howard, Special Visual Effects.

Best short subjects—Cartoons: "The Cat Concert," M-G-M. Frederick Quimby, Producer. One-reel: "Facing Your Danger," Warner Bros. Gordon Hollingshead, Producer. Two-reel: "A Boy and His Dog," Warner Bros. Gordon Hollingshead, Producer.

Best scoring of a musical picture—"The Jolson Story," Columbia. By Morris Stoloff.

Best music scoring of a dramatic or comedy picture—"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio. By Hugo Friedhofer.

Best original song—"On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe" from "The Harvey Girls," M-G-M. Music by Harry Warren. Lyrics by Johnny Mercer.

Distinctive achievement in documentary production—Short subject: "Seeds of Destiny," U. S. War Department.

The Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award for the most consistently high quality of production achieved by an individual producer—Sam Goldwyn.

Special award to Laurence Olivier as producer, director and star of "Henry V."

Special Junior award to Claude Jarman,, Jr., actor in "The Yearling," M-G-M.

Special award to Harold Russell, actor in "The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn, RKO-Radio.

Special achievement award to Ernest Lubitsch, director.

Bidding Could Start for All Firms April 1

See Sec. 2 Permitting Theatres to Demand It

All major distributors can be compelled to offer their product to bidders on and after April 1 in any competitive situation under the provisions of paragraph nine, section two, of the New York decree, company attorneys and sales executives here conceded yesterday.

Paragraph nine of section two, which becomes effective April 1, whereas the decree's competitive bidding provision is not effective until July 1, enjoins the distributors "from arbitrarily refusing the demand of an exhibitor" for a run of a film instead of licensing it to a competitor. This

(*Continued on page* 12)

Independents Like Bidding in Chicago

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO, March 13.—Small independent exhibitors are appearing here as the most enthusiastic boosters for competitive bidding. At the moment, at least, they are pleased with the prospect of being able to bid for better runs and different product, whether they get it or not.

They can bid for it here today

(*Continued on page* 15)

Selznick Reveals 'Duel' Is Re-Edited

David O. Selznick announced yesterday that his Technicolor production, "Duel in the Sun," had been re-edited in accordance with the suggestions of various religious and civic groups, including the Legion of Decency.

Selznick stated: "While the re-

(*Continued on page* 12)

In This Issue

"King of the Wild Horses" and "West of Dodge City" are reviewed on page 9.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM

WANTED: A home for the United States Government plaque honoring the motion picture industry for its efforts in World War II.

George Schaefer, former War Activities Committee chairman, has been boarding the 200-pound bronze plaque in his New York office since its return from a two-year tour of display in theatres throughout the country. Schaefer is stymied on a decision determining a permanent resting place for the giant medal because it belongs to all three branches of the industry and, he fears, presentation of it to any one branch will bring loud squawks from one of the others, there being such sensitive souls in all three.

Schaefer is wide open to suggestions on what to do with the plaque. So, we offer this one: When the Department of Justice really takes over the "policing" of the film business, as it hopes to, what better "resting" place could there be than on the long, white marble walls of the stately anti-trust department in the Hall of Justice?

▽

Correspondence from Quigley Publications' Swiss representative, Carlo Fedier, at Zurich, explains that he will be absent from his post for three weeks on a compulsory military service assignment. Switzerland hasn't had a war in 500 years!

▽

The Strand Theatre, Louisville, in the blue-grass country of Kentucky, introduced Senator Claghorn's "It's a Joke, Son!" by serving highly frosted, very minty juleps.

We always were fond of Southern hospitality, except that of Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital, on the occasion when Paramount's press agent, "Oddie" Odell, himself a Southernaire, while on a junket with newsmen for the premiere of "So Red the Rose," introduced the writer of this column to a bevy of Richmond belles, as "Col. Cunningham, great grandson of General Grant"! We never did get to see how red that rose was.

S'help us, the Strand gave free admission last week during the Claghorn run, to any gent wearing a Confederate Army uniform! "Bring a companion, too," said the Strand's announcement, "but make sure he's not a Northerner."—!!!

▽

To 20th Century-Fox's No. 1 film-seller, Tom Connors, we call attention to this headline in New York's PM: *"'Forever Amber' Ruled a Lady," reporting a decision by Boston's Superior Court Judge Frank J. Donahue.*

▽

Topping the many unique methods employed by Hollywood laborites to prevent the crossing of picket lines are the kites used by New Bedford, Mass., pickets to prevent helicopters from ferrying raw materials into the struck Cornell-Dubilier plant.

Personal Mention

BYRON PRICE, retired vice-president of the Motion Picture Association, will leave Hollywood on Sunday for New York to assume his new post as assistant secretary-general of the United Nations.

•

SABIE CONTI, manager of Reade's Paramount, Plainfield, N. J., has been elected treasurer of the Town of Raritan, N. J. TONY HUNTING, Reade manager in Red Bank, N. J., this week celebrated his 25th year as a member of the Raritan Township Council.

•

WILLIAM GOETZ, Universal-International vice-president in charge of production, will return to Hollywood from New York next Friday.

•

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, is due in New York from the Coast tomorrow.

•

CURTS MITCHELL, director of advertising-publicity for Paramount, returned to New York from Washington yesterday.

•

STANLEY and MRS. MEYER (she is the former DORIS BLUMBERG), will leave here for the Coast tomorrow.

•

TOM FARRELL, Loew's International manager in Shanghai, is en route here from the Coast by train.

•

DAN MICHALOVE, National Theatres vice-president, is due here from the Coast on Monday.

•

MARCEL HELLMAN, British producer, will leave New York for the Coast on Sunday.

•

BRYAN FOY, Eagle-Lion production chief, will leave the Coast today for New York.

•

DAVID ROSE, independent producer, has left here for Hollywood.

SI FABIAN will return here on Monday from Florida.

•

JUDY HOFFMAN, Loew's SOPEG vice-chairman, is leaving the company to await the stork. She was feted yesterday at the Hotel Bristol by fellow workers.

•

BEN KALMENSON, vice-president and general sales manager of Warner Brothers, returned to New York yesterday from the Mid-West.

•

VINCENT TROTTA, JR., son of National Screen Service's art director, has been elected president of the Rhodes School student body.

•

EDWIN W. AARON, assistant general sales manager for M-G-M, left New York yesterday for a Miami vacation.

•

HARRY GOLDBERG, Warner Circuit's director of advertising-publicity, has returned here from the Coast.

•

WALTER E. BRANSON, RKO Radio Western division sales manager, has returned here from the Coast.

•

CHARLES BOASBERG, RKO Radio divisional sales manager, will return here from Dallas today.

•

E. C. GRAINGER, president of the Shea Circuit, will leave here for Florida tomorrow.

•

SID MESIBOV, Paramount's assistant exploitation manager, was in Washington yesterday.

•

BUDD ROGERS, producers' representative, has returned here from the Coast.

•

E. L. ALPERSON of Anson Productions will leave here for Hollywood today.

•

RAMOS COBIAN, Puerto Rico theatre owner, is in New York.

H. W. Auten Joins UA Foreign Staff

Harold William Auten has been appointed assistant European division manager for United Artists, by Walter Gould, UA foreign manager.

Auten, who will work with William M. Levy, division manager for Europe and the Near East, entered the industry in 1937 as a member of the Warner sales organization in London.

In 1940 he joined the British Army where, as a staff officer during the war years and the immediate post-war period, he handled various film assignments in Continental Europe, including that of Controller of the UFA film combine in the British zone of Germany. Auten also was responsible for the reopening of theatres in Greece, Belgium and Holland when the war ended.

Auten is the son of Harold Auten.

British Raw Stock Emergency Passes

LONDON, March 13.—The present program of raw stock economies placed in effect under the government's edict to conserve the nation's coal supply will be adequate at least until early April, when a further check-up will be necessary, according to an industry committee which has examined the situation.

The weekly saving now totals 850,000 feet. Newsreels have been cut to 750 feet. Eastman Kodak, the largest raw stock producer, reports being "temporarily happy and working hard on the present uncertain coal supply but apprehensive of the future."

The committee stands ready for instantaneous recall if a new emergency should develop. Officers of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association are in constant touch with fuel officials.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

2nd HIT WEEK!
"UNUSUAL! SUPERIOR!" —Times
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

LOEW'S STATE B'way & 45
ON SCREEN
YOU and ROBT. MONTGOMERY
Audrey TOTTER
'LADY IN THE LAKE'
IN PERSON
MICHAEL O'SHEA
J. C. HEARD
The WILDE TWINS
plus OTHERS

Paramount presents
Paulette Goddard
Fred MacMurray
in "Suddenly It's Spring"
In Person
JOHNNY LONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA
JOAN EDWARDS
LEWIS & VAN
BUDDY LESTER
DON BAKER at the organ
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"
—N. Y. FILM CRITICS
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

DANA ANDREWS in
"BOOMERANG"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE — PHIL REGAN
KATHERINE DUNHAM . ERNESTO LECUONA
ED SULLIVAN . SID CAESAR
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Electricians Told To Return to Jobs At Studios' Call

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 40, which has been observing Conference of Studio Unions picket lines although the union was recently withdrawn from affiliation, were told today to return to work when and as called by the studios. The order was given at a special meeting last night by Charles Hughes, trustee, on instruction from International president Dan Tracy.

Hughes and IATSE International representative Roy M. Brewer today issued a joint statement saying that the agreement reached by Tracy and IATSE president Walsh provides for recognition of the Dec., 1945, AFL jurisdictional directive, and for settlement of all remaining disputes on a local level, unless an appeal to the International becomes necessary.

Producers had no immediate comment on the overnight development.

About 400 electricians constitute IBEW membership. A CSU spokesman said that the rank and file of Local 40 is rebellious, adding that the incident strengthens, rather than weakens, the CSU position with the workers still on strike.

CSU president Herbert Sorrell spent the morning closeted with U. S. labor conciliator Frank Wenig, who arrived yesterday from San Francisco. He quoted Wenig as intending to visit the IATSE and the producers in an attempt to get all parties to sit down around a conference table this weekend to work out a strike settlement.

Local 702, Eastern 'Labs' Resume Talks

Negotiations between 18 Eastern laboratories and Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local No. 702, IATSE, were resumed here yesterday at the Hotel Astor. Participating in the discussion was James J. Brennan, IATSE vice-president, who was assigned to attempt a solution of wage issues after the local voted last Sunday to tie up virtually all Eastern film processing at midnight, last Monday. The contract between the union and the laboratories expired Monday.

Negotiations were broken off last Friday, reportedly when the local's demand for wage parity with West Coast technicians was to have been considered. Further talks are scheduled for today.

DeVry Strike Ends

CHICAGO, March 13.—The DeVry Projector Co. strike ended today after president William C. DeVry consented to a collective bargaining agent election, to be held on Monday. The American Federation of Labor Electrical Workers, which had called the strike, claims a majority. The company has a one-year contract, signed last month, with the International Association of Machinists, an independent union.

McCue To Film Classics

Thomas McCue has been appointed traveling auditor for Film Classics, by Samuel N. Wheeler, sales manager for the company. McCue held the same post with Universal-International for the past six years.

Theatres Approve 1st Run for Purdue 'U'

Precedental sale of prior-run rights to nine of J. Arthur Rank's Prestige Pictures for showing in the auditorium of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., has been consummated, but only after the five commercial theatres in that city had given the "go-ahead" for such a sale of all but one of the films, a spokesman for the Rank company said here yesterday. Commercial theatre interest had been expressed in "The Overlanders," which is included in the pact with the university, he added.

The school auditorium, it was pointed out, has a seating capacity of 6,146, while the largest of the five regular theatres seats 1,472. The school population is approximately 14,000, out of some 50,000 for Lafayette and West Lafayette combined.

Patent Suit Won by Park-In Theatres

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 13.—E. M. Loew's Drive-In Theatre, Inc., of Providence, lost a 6-year court battle over patent rights in the drive-in theatre, as Judge John P. Hartigan ruled in an opinion filed in U. S. District Court here that the Drive-In is liable for royalties to Park-In Theatres, Inc., on income derived from the Loew's Theatre between June 1, 1938, and 1944.

The decision is of wide importance to drive-in theatres. All of those using the Park-In patent will be subject to royalty payments in consequence. No move to appeal the decision has been made yet.

The amount of the sum owing the Park-In Theatres is to be determined by further hearings before Judge Hartigan as agreed upon before the suit to collect royalties was heard.

Park-In Thactres filed the suit against Loew's on April 30, 1941, to recover triple damages for infringement of Patent 1,909,537 for the drive-in theatre. Park-In contended that it held patent rights through assignment from the inventor of the drive-in theatre, Richard M. Hollingsworth, Jr.

On June 1, 1937, the Park-In said, it entered into an agreement with the defendant under which Loew's was granted certain license rights, in return for which the Drive-In was to make weekly reports of receipts and make weekly payment of royalties, with royalties to be paid on the basis of 12 per cent of gross receipts in excess of $1,000 a week for each operating week, and for not less than 12 weeks of a year, and 10 per cent of the gross over $2,000.

The Drive-In reported to the Park-In from the beginning of its operations on July 21, 1937, to Nov. 13, 1937, during which the Drive-In collected $29,065 in admissions and made royalty payments.

After that, the Park-In said in its suit, the Drive-In ceased making royalty payments, with the result the Park-In cancelled the agreement and after June 1, 1938, the Drive-In operated without any license from the Park-In.

Hammerstein Heads ALA

Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd, has been elected president of the Authors League of America by the ALA council. He will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Elmer Rice.

Rivoli May Revert To U. A. Circuit

The Rivoli Theatre, New York, is expected to revert to United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc., under the Federal Court mandate which provides for dissolution of theatre pools. Currently, Skouras Theatres Corp. is managing the house which has been operating on a split of Paramount and 20th-Fox product.

N. Y. Tax Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

until Tuesday.

Earlier, exhibitor leaders from New York City held conferences with state legislators in an effort to head off passage of the bill.

In view of strong pressure for immediate passage of the measure, which has been recommended by Gov. Dewey and made a party issue in the Legislature by the Republicans, who can outvote the Democrats six to one, the exhibitor group is understood to have abandoned plans for carrying opposition to the public through an advertising campaign and will, instead, concentrate later on persuading municipalities not to pass admission-tax ordinances if the state bill passes.

Projection Booth Bill to Gov. Dewey

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—The State Assembly has passed unanimously the Condon-Wadlin bill amending the general business law to place projection booths under the inspection of the State Labor Department. The bill now goes to the governor.

According to Assemblyman John Wadlin, the bill is intended as a safety measure to insure the meeting of present-day fire-proofing standards in all booths. He said that some booths now in operation are likely to be affected by the proposed law.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—The Assembly today passed the Finch Bill, allowing the appearance of children under 16 in motion pictures, circuses, stage shows and radio and television broadcasts under a permit system. The Board of Education or a designated officer would issue a permit if the performance is deemed not harmful to the child's physical or moral welfare. School, church and amateur entertainments are exempt.

Book Universal Film Into Capitol Here

"Smash-Up," distributed by Universal, has been booked into the Capitol Theatre here to follow M-G-M's "It Happened in Brooklyn," which opened yesterday. This will mark the first time that a Universal picture has played the house in several years.

Two other Universal films go into the Music Hall soon. Its "The Egg and I" will follow "The Late George Apley," the Hall's Easter picture, and will be followed in turn by "Great Expectations," a J. Arthur Rank picture distributed here by Universal.

Delay Ad Censorship Bill's Consideration

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—Although the Wilson-Condon film advertising censorship bill passed both the Senate and Assembly several weeks ago, a copy of it has not yet been transmitted to Gov. Dewey for signature or veto, and, therefore, the bill will be among those the governor will consider during the 30-day period to which he is entitled for such action following the adjournment of the legislature.

It is believed in some Capitol quarters that the governor will not approve the bill, which would give the State Board of Regents power to revoke the license of a film that had been given "salacious" advertising in any medium, due to strong opposition which has been manifested by newspapers throughout the state.

397 Features Made In '46, 371 in '45

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Production of feature product on the Coast last year rose seven per cent. During 1946 there were 397 films produced, compared with 371 in 1945, the Production Code Administration reports, through Motion Picture Association headquarters here.

Joseph Breen, PCA administrator, reported to president Eric Johnston that 62 per cent of the features approved by the PCA were based on original stories. Others were derived from 65 novels, 22 stage plays, 10 radio plays, 10 published short stories and 14 cartoon strips.

During 1946 the PCA rejected 91 books, play treatments and scripts, it was said. Breen said 62 of those rejected were basically objectionable and 29 objectionable in part. His staff read a total of 928 scripts during the year, an increase of 6.4 per cent over the 872 in 1945. Melodramas ranked first in the number of approved features, and 45 were mysteries. Westerns numbered 88, compared with 73 in 1945. The list of dramas rated "social problem dramas" as most numerous, with comedies second.

Universal Asking Bids For 2 New Exchanges

Universal's program of building 28 new exchanges throughout the country has been advanced to the point of advertising for construction bids in Philadelphia and New Orleans, John J. O'Connor, "U" vice-president and executive assistant to president Nate J. Blumberg, reported here yesterday.

When the Philadelphia and New Orleans buildings are started, in the near future, three will be under construction, ground having been broken recently for a Chicago exchange.

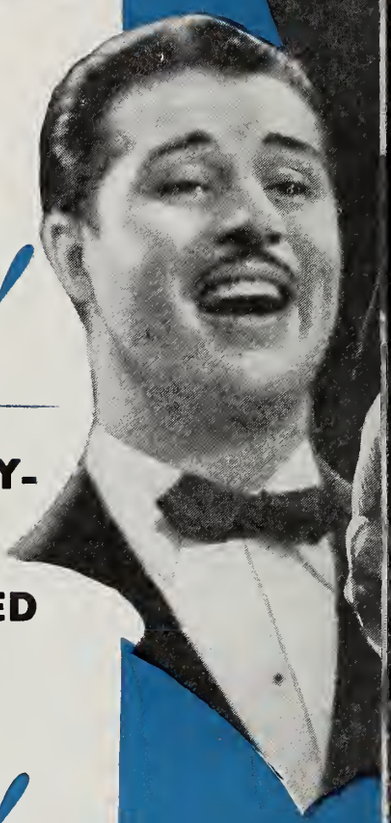
Meanwhile, negotiations are going on for the acquisition of sites in four or five key cities where locations for buildings have not yet been secured, it is understood.

Reception for Colbert

Claudette Colbert will be the honor guest of Gus Eyssell, head of the Music Hall, here, at a reception on Tuesday afternoon, in that theatre's studio. Miss Colbert appears in "The Egg and I," which has been booked into the Hall after Easter.

By Popular Demand!

THE GREATEST CAST EVER ASSEMBLED IN THE CHAMPION MUSICAL OF ALL TIME!

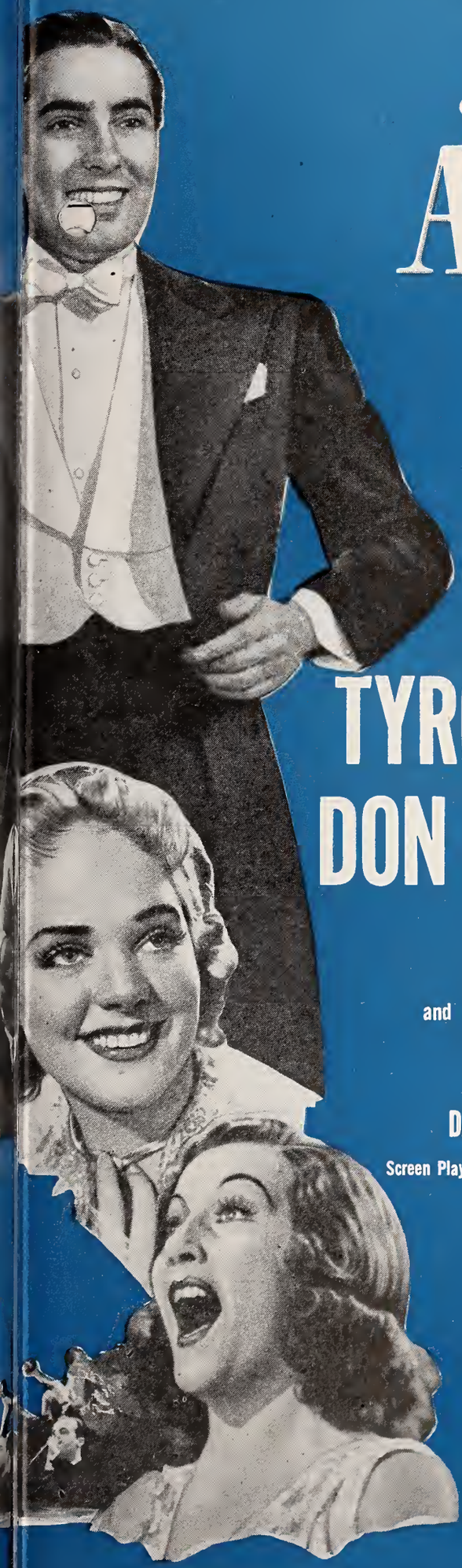


By Popular Demand!

BACKED ALL THE WAY WITH 20th CENTURY-FOX SMASH SHOWMANSHIP—PLUS THE GREATEST RADIO CAMPAIGN EVER ACCORDED A MOTION PICTURE!

By Popular Demand!

DAY-AND-DATE IN HUNDREDS OF THE NATION'S GREATEST THEATRES LED BY THE ROXY, NEW YORK CITY!



Irving Berlin's

Alexander's Ragtime Band

Starring

TYRONE POWER · ALICE FAYE
DON AMECHE · ETHEL MERMAN

and **JACK HALEY · JEAN HERSHOLT**

HELEN WESTLEY · JOHN CARRADINE

DARRYL F. ZANUCK In Charge of Production • Directed by **HENRY KING**

Screen Play by Kathryn Scola and Lamar Trotti • Adaptation by Richard Sherman • Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin

Dances Staged by Seymour Felix • Associate Producer Harry Joe Brown

Brought back with all its songs, all its stars, all its heart by

20th Century-Fox

$8,100,000 Bonus To Kodak Employes

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 13.—A record wage dividend reaching a greater number of employes than ever before in the company's history, totaling $8,100,000, to cover 48,800 workers in the Western hemisphere, will be distributed tomorrow by Eastman Kodak. Last year, when payments included a large number of returned war veterans who participated in the dividend, 42,000 employes shared $7,362,000, the company declares.

Based on common stock dividends declared in the preceding year, the wage dividend is apportioned on a pro rata basis of one-half per cent of the total individual earnings for five years for each dollar of declared common stock dividend above $3.50 a share. If the five-to-one split recommended last week by the directors is adopted at the annual Kodak meeting on April 29, appropriate adjustments will be made in the wage-dividend formula, the company stated.

Since 1946 dividends totaled $7 per share, the current employee rate is one and three-quarter per cent of an eligible employe's wages during 1942-1946, the company explained. It pointed out that for each $1,000 earned in that period, the employe will receive $17.50 in a wage dividend. Minimum payments are $15, it continued, and an employe who completed five years' service by the end of 1946 will receive a check for about four and one-half times his average weekly wage during the five years.

About 31,800 employes in this city, site of the parent company, will receive $5,800,000, representing about 71½ per cent of the total.

International Film Group Meets Here

The International Film Relations Committee held a meeting here yesterday at headquarters of the Motion Picture Association, with chairman Fortunat Baronat of Universal-International, presiding over a discussion of overseas problems. Attending were: Paul Ackerman and Mary Butler, Paramount; David Blum and Rosa Lewis, M-G-M; David O'Malley and Clarence Schneider, Columbia; James Solan, Universal; Samuel Cohen, United Artists; Salph de Alberich, 20th Century-Fox; Mel Strauss, Vanguard, and Walton B. Thomas of the MPA.

Variety Club Aids Family

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—With the presentation of a check for $100 to John Tice, head of a local family whose house was leveled by fire, Variety Club here inspired other residents to go to the assistance of the Tice family in helping them to rebuild. C. J. Latta, chairman of Tent No. 9's "Heart Fund" and second asistant national chief barker, made the presentation.

To Alter Variety Club

CHARLOTTE, March 13.—Officials of Charlotte's Variety Club have approved plans for complete renovation of their club rooms in the Hotel Charlotte. The club rooms occupy one-half of the southern wing on the second floor. The cost will be approximately $6,000.

Newsreel Footage Satisfies the GOP

Washington, March 13.—Newsreels are now giving the GOP its share of footage, William Murphy, public relations director of the Republican National Committee, observes.

After the last election, committee chairman Carroll Reese notified newsreels producers that the GOP wanted equal representation with footage given to the Democratic Executive Administration. Since the protest was made, it was said, the newsreels have carried as much Republican Congressional footage as they have White House and Executive Department material.

Indian Producer To Make Buddha Film

Vajay Bhatt, president of Prakash Pictures of India, has arrived in the U. S. to arrange for the production of a color film on the life of Buddha, it was disclosed here yesterday by the India Society. Asserting the film will be made "on American standards," Bhatt said American rights to the film will be made available.

Next month the Society will hold a conference in New York to implement a program for cultural exchange of films and other media. The first new films arriving from India will then be exhibited. Bhatt and Hari Govil, Society founder, are pressing for intensified interchange of films between the U. S. and India, holding that films provide a means for India to quickly absorb Western culture, industrial techniques and other sorely-needed information in the modernization of that country.

E-L Group in Boston To Attend Premiere

BOSTON, March 13.—A party of Eagle-Lion officials, including Alfred W. Schwalberg, vice-president and general sales manager; Max E. Youngstein, advertising-publicity chief, and Arthur Jeffrey, exploitation manager, are here to attend tomorrow night's premiere of "The Adventuress" at the Majestic Theatre. Frank Launder, director, co-author and co-producer of the film, which stars Deborah Kerr, accompanied the executives from New York.

New Move to Push Films

JOHANNESBURG, March 8 (By Air-Mail).—Private film societies to further interest in motion pictures and to study the sociological aspects of films are gaining ground here. Starting in Cape Town, the movement has spread to Johannesburg, where monthly showings of features with educational interest are held.

'Goldwyn Girls' Return

Veterans of 25,000 miles of air travel in a tour of 15 capitals of the Caribbean and South American republics, the six Goldwyn Girls returned to New York by air last night en route to Hollywood. The tour was made to promote Samuel Goldwyn's "The Kid from Brooklyn."

Delay Formation of New Radio Council

The radio industry's plans to establish a Broadcasters' Advisory Council to function somewhat similarly to the Motion Picture Association in that it would be a voluntary organization aimed to raise standards will not be further developed until at least late next month when an organizational committee will meet.

The proposed council, which already is said to have run into opposition by sponsors of network shows, would involve the appointment of an executive director.

On the organizational committee are: Edgar Kobak, president of Mutual, chairman; Niles Trammell, president of NBC; Clair R. McCullough, president of WGAL, Lancaster, Pa.; I. R. Lounsberry, executive vice-president of WGR, Buffalo; Thomas D'Arcy Brophy, president of Kenyon and Eckhardt; Sigurd S. Larmon, president of Young and Rubicam; Robert F. Elder, vice-president of Lever Brothers, and Donovan B. Stetler, advertising director of Standard Brands.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 7, the council was first proposed by Frank Stanton, president of CBS; F. B. Ryan, Jr., president of Ruthrauff and Ryan, and Charles G. Mortimer, vice-president of General Foods. Purpose of the organization, they said then, is "to improve radio's service to the public under the structure of a free radio."

Skouras Will Start Showmanship Drive

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—Charles Skouras, president of National Theatres, will leave here on March 25 to personally initiate the fifth annual showmanship campaign for the circuit. He will be accompanied by John Bertero, Harry Cox, Eddie Zabel and Tom Page. Meetings with managers and district managers in San Francisco, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Denver and Seattle are scheduled.

Greek Orphans Plan To Start Monday

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—The drive to secure support for the adoption of 15,000 Greek war orphans by the motion picture industry will be launched Monday at a luncheon to be given by Charles Skouras, one of the sponsors of the plan, at the Ambassador here, in honor of Ned Depinet, national chairman of the Greek Orphans Fund. Depinet will explain the adoption program to Hollywood industry leaders.

Favorite Acquires Four

Favorite Films has acquired from Pickford-Laskey Corp. reissue rights to "Gay Desperado" and "One Rainy Afternoon." Moe Kerman, Favorite president, who recently returned here from the Coast, also acquired "Sea Bandits" and "Revolt of the Zombies."

'Daughter' Premiere M.25

World premiere of the RKO-Dore Schary "The Farmer's Daughter," co-starring Loretta Young, Joseph Cotten and Ethel Barrymore, will take place at the Rivoli Theatre, here, on March 25.

Mexican Talent Cut Aids the Industry

Mexico City, March 13.—Mexican producers have an improved economic labor outlook with the acceptance of lower wages by talent. Producers call the accepted cuts a gesture of co-operation by talent in aiding the Mexican industry.

Only four pictures are now in production under the producers' new policy of quality over quantity.

Warner Gets Mexican Go-Ahead on Filming

MEXICO CITY, March 13.—The Mexican censorship office has granted approval to Warner Brothers' "The Treasures of the Sierra Madre," following trouble during filming at Tampico under direction of John Huston.

The office examined the disputed scenes and found nothing in them offensive to the country or its inhabitants, as charged. Warners is now free to continue production in this country.

Mexican Business Is Hit by a Recession

MEXICO CITY, March 13.—The Mexican film industry attributes a current business slump partly to a regular seasonal decline and partly to generally adverse business conditions.

The price of silver and a lessened demand for it is also an adverse influence, the country being the world's largest silver producer. A special session of Congress has been called to aid mining and the general economic situation.

U.S. Companies in on Brussels Festival

BRUSSELS, March 9 (By Airmail).—On behalf of eight American companies, the Motion Picture Association has accepted an invitation to participate in the Brussels World Film Festival to be held June 1-30.

The acceptance was made on behalf of United Artists, Columbia, M-G-M, Paramount, RKO, Universal, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers.

Circuit Would Dissolve

MEXICO CITY, March 13.—Circuito del Norte of Monterrey, has petitioned the Federal Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for authorization to close its business, contending that operations have become unprofitable. Excessively high labor costs are said to be principally responsible for the circuit's inability to realize any profits.

Loew Mexican Tribute

MEXICO CITY, March 13.—M-G-M Mexican manager Carlos Niebla is completing details for an extensive exhibition of M-G-M Technicolor pictures from March 30 to May 10 as a tribute to Arthur M. Loew, president of Loew-International.

Winter in New Post

Norman Winter has joined the New York office of Foote, Cone and Belding as director of television and motion pictures.

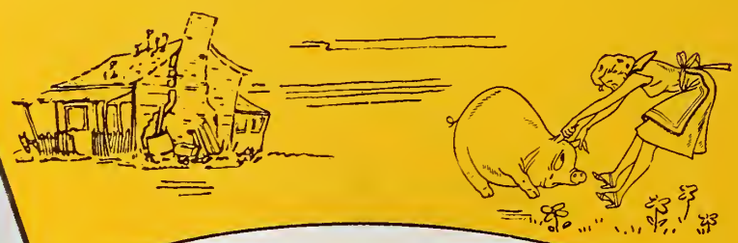
U-I has "The Egg and I" set in the Radio City Music Hall!

Of course, we are extremely excited and happy about "THE EGG AND I" being booked into the Radio City Music Hall by Mr. Gus Eyssell, President and Managing Director.

This is a fitting tribute to this fine American comedy based upon the perennial best-seller by Betty MacDonald.

We extend our appreciation to Gus Eyssell and to all exhibitors throughout the country who will ultimately appraise to the same degree the box office and entertainment quality of "THE EGG AND I." At this writing it is estimated that "THE EGG AND I" has been read by twenty-five million persons. This indicates that "THE EGG AND I" will be one of the best patronized pictures of all time.

Naturally, U-I is backing it up with the biggest advertising campaign in its history.



UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL *presents*

Claudette COLBERT Fred MacMURRAY

IN BETTY MACDONALD'S

"The EGG and I"

with MARJORIE MAIN
LOUISE ALLBRITTON · PERCY KILBRIDE
BILLY HOUSE · RICHARD LONG

Universal International

From the Best Selling Book by Betty MacDonald

Produced and Written for the Screen by CHESTER ERSKINE and FRED F. FINKLEHOFFE
Directed by CHESTER ERSKINE · A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

RCA 16mm. Parley In Camden April 14

CAMDEN, March 13.—Distribution and product plans, including first details of a new line of 16mm. equipment, will be discussed by RCA's 16mm. equipment section at a five-day meeting, starting April 14, to be held at the company's home office here. O. V. Swisher, 16mm. section manager, will speak on new product, with A. J. Petrasek, sales head, slated to outline a distribution policy.

Other speakers will be Ed Jones, promotional manager of the division, who will present dealer and merchandising plans, and W. H. Knowles, chief of the educational department.

RCA regional representatives who will attend the meeting include Al Josephsen and M. F. Blakeslee, New York; Hal Winter, Harry Somerville and Milt Romney, Cleveland; Elmer Eades and Elmer Beneke, Atlanta; Hal Maag, Larry LaHar and Bob Cleveland, Los Angeles; R. H. Renholm, Buck Lewis and Bob Hunt, Chicago; Jim Cocke and Max Heidenreich, Dallas.

A series of follow-up meetings to announce plans made at the Camden meeting to 16mm. equipment dealers, will be held in New York, Cleveland, Chicago, New Orleans and Los Angeles, in May.

Forum Discusses Outlook, Censorship

Future industry trends and the growing threat of film censorship were the dual subjects of a forum held last night at the Hotel Piccadilly here by the Screen Publicists' Guild.

Participating were Maurice Bergman, Universal-International Eastern advertising-publicity director, who discussed the 1947 outlook; Hans Burger of the United Nations film section, who outlined U.N. film plans; Richard Griffith, executive director of the National Board of Review, who highlighted the growing censorship threat on local levels; and Frank Launder, president of the British Film Renters' Association, and J. Arthur Rank, producer, who contrasted British and American censorship.

This afternoon, Bergman and Bosley Crowther, *New York Times* film critic, will debate the question, "Is the Influence of the Movies Good or Bad?" on the "Opinions Please" series in the CBS School of the Air program.

Pickwick Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

principals involved in the action declined to discuss terms of the settlement. It was reported in trade circles, however, that the settlement figure was $225,000.

The action, originally filed in 1941 in U. S. District Court at New Haven, Conn., asked $5,000,000 damages of the major distributors. It alleged that the Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, Conn., which had been operated by E. J. Peskay, was forced to close in 1939 due to inability to obtain sufficient product on an equitable run in relation to Stamford, Conn., and Port Chester, N. Y.

Willard McKay and Saul Rogers, attorneys for plaintiffs, took an appeal to the Circuit Court here when the case was dismissed by the lower court in 1944. The appeal was pending up to the time of the settlement.

Reviews

"King of the Wild Horses"

(*Columbia*)

WHILE "King of the Wild Horses" has the substance to make it a sensitive drama about the adjustment of a young boy to a new family and environment, it stumbles somewhat in the telling, principally because it is over-long for the material available. More astute editing might have overcome the fault; however, the film does provide good family entertainment through Bill Sheffield's polished portrayal of the shy, city-bred lad who moves West to join his uncle on his ranch.

Filled with stories of his late father's success in befriending "King," leader of a herd of wild horses, Bill finds understanding in Preston Foster, his uncle, and Gail Patrick, his aunt. With Patti Brady, their daughter, Bill becomes familiar with the chores of ranch life. He, too, befriends King, as his father once did, but, unlike his father, determines to settle down to cattle raising. Others in the cast are: Guinn Williams, Buzz Henry, Charles Kemper and John Kellogg. The picture was produced by Ted Richmond and directed by George Archainbaud, from a screenplay by Brenda Weisberg and story by Ted Thomas.

Running time, 79 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 27. IRVING KAPLAN

"West of Dodge City"

(*Columbia*)

POPPING up all over the place at crucial moments, "The Durango Kid," played by Charles Starrett, who also appears as a placid surveyor, has plenty of work on his hands in preventing "carpet-bagger" Fred Sears and his crew from becoming cattle barons through unscrupulous deals. The action is fast, albeit a bit hackneyed, as Starrett, the surveyor, helps to "put the finger" on Sears for the murder of Nolan Leary, and then, as "Durango," succeeds in bringing the culprits to justice. Fetching Nancy Saunders, showing the same stubbornness as her late father did in holding his ranch against onslaughts of the crooks, lends feminine grace to the picture, while Glen Stuart, as her brother, provides a few moments of uncertainty in his readiness to sell out to Sears.

Also in the cast are Smiley Burnette, as the town's editor, who alone and in company with two bewilderingly-named characters, "Mustard" and "Gravy," renders some amusing songs. Bert Horswell wrote the script, Colbert Clark produced and Ray Nazarro directed.

Running time, 57 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 27. I. K.

Para.-Adams Tiff Ends in a Draw

Disagreement between Paramount and Adam Adams over what comprises fair rental terms under a 21-year franchise held by Adams for the Paramount, Newark, and the U. S., Paterson, N. J., has been determined by arbitration which gives neither side a complete victory. Text of the findings was mailed to both parties last night.

Under the franchise, which would have expired in 1951 if the Federal Court had not ruled them out, the distributor and exhibitor were committed to arbitration in the event of a dispute which had been brewing for some time and reached its climax on August 1, 1946.

Paramount named George J. Schaefer as its arbitrator and Adams named Edmund C. Grainger, president of the Shea circuit, as his arbitrator. Failing to reach an accord, the two arbitrators turned to Paul Mead, former vice-president of Irving Trust, as a third.

The decision covers product played by Adams in both situations from the break-off date last year to the present. If distributors should prove successful in any efforts made to reinstate franchises generally, its terms are to be binding until the expiration of the Paramount-Adams franchise agreement four years hence.

Astor Names Wernick

Astor Film Exchange, Inc., has appointed Irving Wernick office manager.

To See Wright on Equity Record Costs

Following a meeting yesterday in the office here of Edward C. Raftery, president of United Artists, attorneys for the eight distributors said they will confer with Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the Attorney General, on how much of the court record of the New York anti-trust case must be printed for the U. S. Supreme Court, where appeals of the decision are now pending.

The issue particularly involves the printing of all or parts of the hundreds of exhibits entered in the case, which along with the rest of the record, would bring costs to about $90,000, it was estimated. The companies prefer to offer only that part of the record pertaining to the provisions of the decree from which they are appealing. Wright wants the entire record printed. No decision has been reached on how the printing costs are to be met.

U. S. Will Reprint So. America Survey

WASHINGTON, March 13.—A U. S. Department of Commerce survey of motion pictures and equipment in Latin America, containing new information on markets and data collected and published in a 1944 report, has been reprinted because of a continued demand by the industry, Nathan D. Golden, Commerce film consultant, discloses. Latest reports are on Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Uruguay.

Brief Hits Jackson Park Court Ruling

CHICAGO, March 13.—Distributor defendants with Balaban and Katz and the Warner circuits have filed briefs with the U. S. Circuit Cout of Appeals, here, protesting District Court Judge Michael L. Igoe's decision calling for elimination of Chicago's system of release, and recommending that the Jackson Park Theatre be given an opportunity to bid for pictures.

The defendants hold that Igoe was in error in holding that all issues were settled in the Jackson Park's previous damage trial and could not be brought up again during the present injunction trial; that when those findings are set aside there is nothing for the decision to stand on in its present form; that even if the findings were all right the decision goes too far and grants relief which the findings do not justify. Arguments are slated to be heard at the April session, the plaintiff having 20 days in which to file a reply brief.

Objected to, also, are the two weeks' limitation of first-runs in Loop theatres, the elimination of twin bills, and the decision of the court ordering distributors to sell Jackson Park films one week ahead of B. and K.'s Maryland and Warner's Jeffrey theatres.

Beja and Nylund Are Named by Reisman

Rene Beja, former RKO Radio manager in Portugal and Brazil, has been appointed manager in Spain, and Kurt Nylund, former RKO Radio distributor in Finland, has been named manager in that country, by Phil Reisman, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution. Nylund will have headquarters in Oslo, Beja in Barcelona.

Bidding Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

decision is expected to be handed down within several days after the arguments. Universal's application asks, in addition to the bidding stay, that enforcement of the injunctions of the New York Court which would invalidate existing contracts, notably franchises and the sales of a year's product in advance, be postponed until after the high tribunal rules on the company's pending appeal, probably early next year. Formal bidding under the decree is scheduled to begin July 1.

Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, said today that the Department of Justice has not yet reached a final decision on whether to oppose Universal's application for a stay. On Wednesday, one of his assistants had reported that such opposition was not planned, although the government "saw no reason" why a stay should be granted.

Columbia's application, for a stay of single sales as well as competitive bidding, will be filed with the Supreme Court tomorrow. Paramount, which also has appealed from the bidding provision, remained undecided today on whether to ask for a stay. Presumably, all stay requests will be argued at the March 25 hearing. Justice Reed received jurisdiction in the matter after Justice Robert Jackson, who normally considers preliminary motions on cases from the New York court, had disqualified himself on the grounds that he was Attorney General when the original complaint was filed.

NEW YORK RECORD CROWDS JAM GOTHAM THEATRE, BROADWAY, TO GREET JOHN WAYNE'S FIRST PRODUCER-STAR PICTURE "ANGEL AND THE BADMAN"

NEW YORK REVIEWS "ANGEL AND THE BADMAN

"... mightily enjoyed by the Gotham audiences..."
John T. McManus—PM

"... pleasant ... different ... refreshing."
Otis L. Guernsey, Jr.
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

"... off-formula Western ... hard-riding, fighting, shooting, and sapolioed cussing ... an excellent cast ... considerable entertainment for the family trade."
Lee Mortimer, DAILY MIRROR

"... exciting sequences in the film and one particularly thrilling chase." Kate Cameron, DAILY NEWS

"Superior to usual Western ... different from and a notch or two superior to the normal sagebrush saga."
The NEW YORK TIMES

"Even a Western can pull out some surprises, as ANGEL AND THE BADMAN proves at the Gotham. The accent is on action ... plenty of worthwhile stuff. Gail Russell, excellent in her silent scenes."
Eileen Creelman, NEW YORK SUN

"Actor Wayne gives a good performance..."
Rose Pelswick, NEW YORK JOURNAL - AMERICAN

"Good Western, entertaining comedy romance."
CUE MAGAZINE

JOHN WAYNE · GAIL RUSSELL

Angel and the BADMAN

with

HARRY CAREY · BRUCE CABOT · IRENE RICH · LEE DIXON
and STEPHEN GRANT · TOM POWERS · PAUL HURST

Written and Directed by JAMES EDWARD GRANT · A JOHN WAYNE Production

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

VARIETY
Wednesday, March 5, 1947

'Angel' Sock 30G,

Gotham (Brandt) (900; 70-$1.40)—Angel and Badman" (Rep). Terrific weekend trade despite weather is boosting this to sock $30,000 or close. Naturally stays.

14 Charged as Trust In $1,400,000 Suit

BURLINGTON, Vt., March 13.—A $1,400,000 anti-trust suit against 10 distributors and four exhibitors has been filed in U. S. District Court here by Joseph P. Wilson, operator of the Brandon Community Theatre, who charges that in 1935 the defendants had formed a combine in a conspiracy allegedly to break the law.

Distributors named are: Paramount, Loew-M-G-M, Warners, RKO, United Artists, Universal, Columbia, Republic, Monogram, and PRC of Boston. The four exhibitors named are: Samuel Kurson, Bangor, Me.; Newell and Kenneth Kurson, Newton, Mass., and the Millinocket Opera House.

The suit charges that the combine was directed against independent theatre operators, who were discriminated against in that they could not obtain first-run pictures; as a result, the plaintiff's business was damaged.

'Duel' Re-Edited

(*Continued from page* 1)

editing for the groups involved resulted in 46 individual cuts, they were of the same type that is normally made in the process of editing a film following previews or trial engagements. With the substitutions and additions the overall length of the film has not been materially changed and its dramatic values and integrity have not suffered in the least."

In its trial engagements in Los Angeles, the film ran slightly less than two hours and 20 minutes. In its new form the picture's running time is two hours and 18 minutes.

"It can be observed in this connection," Selznick's statement said, "that the film has received the 'B' classification from the Legion of Decency. Pictures which have this 'B' classification for various moral reasons have been 'The Best Years of Our Lives', 'Blue Skies', 'Humoresque', 'Open City', '13 Rue Madeleine' and 'The Sign of the Cross'.

Bristol Exhibitors Defeat 5% Tax Bill

BRISTOL, Tenn., March 13.—Exhibitors here have won their battle against a threatened five per cent admission tax.

Recently, when the City Council met in an unannounced session, a five per cent tax was introduced and passed and was slated to become effective 48 hours thereafter. However, theatre managers organized quickly, succeeded in having the tax rescinded until a public hearing was given the proposal, and during it persuaded the council to abandon the tax.

Bidding April 1

(*Continued from page* 1)

could invoke bidding when a contest for a run consequently develops—specifically when an exhibitor offers better terms for a run which his competitor would otherwise obtain.

With this in mind United Artists has directed its sales force to map local competitive areas so that requested runs could be negotiated. Similarly, a Universal sales executive reports that the company will be prepared to so negotiate in compliance with the "arbitrary refusal" clause of the decree. All companies have requests for bidding totaling hundreds. Actual "tests" have been made by Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer, principally, and by RKO-Radio and Paramount. Twentieth Century-Fox instituted a system of considering run and film requests by theatremen some time ago.

Recent Universal negotiations resulted in booking "The Egg and I" into the Manor Theatre, Charlotte, where it will be shown on a roadshow basis, rather than at a Wilby-Kincey house. Wilby-Kincey similarly lost "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," 20th-Fox, to the Manor, which is operated by H. B. Meiselman, and to the Ritz, also in Charlotte, operated by Edward Curtis.

The Department of Justice has yet to formulate any policy on how it will deal with "arbitrary refusal" and bidding provisions, and will await complaints from exhibitors against the defendants' compliance.

Award Rules

(*Continued from page* 1)

of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards ceremonies, were not only all 1946 pictures and performances but also the Academy's newly-established rule limiting final voting to the Academy membership. With contenders for the best-picture award regarded as more evenly matched than in any year since the nominations were reduced from 10 films to five, experienced observers believed that Academy prestige tonight faced the sternest test in its history.

The restrictions of final ballot privileges to Academy members was announced last September by president Jean Hersholt as a change made by the board of governors in an endeavor to end long reiterated charges that the major studios enjoyed an advantage in ballotting due to the numerical superiority of their employees eligible to vote.

The change was a topic of controversy when disclosed. It narrowed the electorate substantially. Voters in previous Academy ballotings averaged 10,000 individuals. Under this year's system, voters eligible to cast final ballots numbered only 1,620.

Although preliminary nominations were conducted for the most part on a broad basis roughly comparable to previous years the possibility that resentment in runner-up ranks might assume important proportions following announcement of winners voted by less electors than formerly has animated widespread speculation. But Academy executives, inaugurating several other procedural changes this year, were confident that the results would meet, nevertheless, with general approval. They point out that the whole purpose of the changes was to offset previous criticism.

Tonight's ceremonies, the first ever opened to the public, were run off under perfect weather conditions, with the full accompaniment of floodlights, fanfare and glamour traditionally marking an all-out Hollywood event.

Asserting that motion pictures are "the newest form of dramatic art since the birth of the Grecian drama," Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, in making the presentations, called upon the assembled leaders and film workers to use the medium to "give the world understanding.'

"Give it ties of friendship and affection which come only through knowledge and appreciation," he continued. "Join with those who work in motion pictures throughout the world to show by example the way to a broader, happier life for peoples everywhere."

After emphasizing that "our generation has the tragic privilege . . . of living in the greatest human crisis since the fall of the Roman Empire," the MPA head added: "It also has the magnificent opportunity to mold, form and direct the inevitable changes of tomorrow so that eventually we may have peace on earth and good will toward men."

Research Council Cites Many For Technical Developments

The Academy's research council, which annually bestows scientific and technical awards for "outstanding merit, tonight extended honorable mentions to the following: Harlan L. Baumbach and the Paramount laboratory for an improved method for quantitative determination of hydroquinone and metal photographic development; Herbert E. Britt for development and application of formulas and equipment for producing cloud and smoke effects; Burton F. Miller and the Warner sound and electrical departments for design and construction of an arc lighting generator filter.

Also, Carl Faulkner and the 20th Century-Fox sound department for development of a reversed bias method, including a double bias method, for light valve and galvonometer density recording; Mole-Richardson Co. for its type 450 high intensity carbon arc lamp; Arthur F. Blinn, Robert O. Cook, C. O. Slyfield and the Walt Disney sound department for the design and development of an audio finder and track viewer for checking and locating noise in sound tracks.

Also, Burton F. Miller and the Warner sound department for design and application of an equalizer to eliminate relative spectral energy distortion in electronic compressors; Marty Martin and Hal Hadkins for RKO Radio's miniature visual bullet effects; Harold Nye and the Warner electrical department for the development of an electronically-controlled fire and gaslight effect.

New N. J. Theatre To Use Television

A corporation headed by New York theatre-owner Harry Brandt has signed a 21-year lease with Chestnut Manor, Inc., for a new 1,200-seat theatre to be built in Union, N. J., with special television equipment, it is announced by Berk and Krumgold, theatre realtors.

A special television auditorium will be built in the lounge to accommodate about 200. In addition, television equipment will be installed in the theatre itself to be used to flash special events as they happen. In the deal with Brandt is New Jersey exhibitor Fred Kalkner.

Frangooles to Albany

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—James Frangooles, formerly with Basil Theatres and Paramount, in Buffalo, has been named Paramount booker here, replacing Howard Goldstein who resigned to join RKO Radio here as head booker succeeding the late A. H. (Abe) Van Deusen.

"After seeing Deborah Kerr's superb performance in 'The Adventuress', it is not difficult to see why she was chosen for the extremely enticing role opposite Gable in 'The Hucksters.'"

Lee Mortimer,
New York Daily Mirror

Deborah Kerr in "The Adventuress"

An EAGLE-LION FILMS Release

PREMIERE TODAY! MAJESTIC, BOSTON!

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC (Eagle-Lion)	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Feb. 15	CIGARETTE GIRL M—67 mins. OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL O—63 mins.	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY Mickey Rooney C—91 mins. (Rev. 12/6/46)	VALLEY OF FEAR Johnny Mack Brown O—54 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)			ANGEL AND THE BADMAN John Wayne Irene Rich O—100 mins. (Rev. 2/6/47)	SINBAD THE SAILOR (Color) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maureen O'Hara D—117 mins. (Rev. 1/14/47)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG D—88 mins. (Rev. 1/24/47)			
Feb. 22	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES Butch Jenkins D—94 mins. (Rev. 11/21/46)	FALL GUY Robert Armstrong Clifford Penn D—64 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)	CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John O—58 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins.	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	THE BRASHER DOUBLOON D—72 mins. ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey M—90 mins. (Rev. 2/25/47)		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1		BOOMTOWN (Reprint) Clark Gable D—119 mins. (Rev. 8/2/40)	THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D		DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)	HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (Reissue) (Rev. 10/29/41)		(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8	13TH HOUR Richard Dix D—65 mins. THE LONE HAND TEXAN (Rev. 2/27/47)		HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas	EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Rev. 3/10/47) (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Rev. 3/10/47)	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)		(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders D—115 mins. (Rev. 2/26/47)	(Reissue) WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15	(March Release) JOHNNY O'CLOCK Dick Powell Evelyn Keyes D—85 mins. (Rev. 1/2/47)		TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown		(Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr (Rev. 3/10/47)	THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22	MILLIE'S DAUGHTER Gladys George Gay Nelson D—70 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	(March Release) BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)	SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore	TRAIL STREET Randolph Scott Robert Ryan O—84 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)		(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett D—90 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29	WEST OF DODGE CITY KING OF THE WILD HORSES Preston Foster Gail Patrick		VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY	THE DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE Lawrence Tierney D—62 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)		(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID (Color) Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	THAT WAY WITH WOMEN Sydney Greenstreet Martha Vickers C—85 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)
April 5	BLONDIE'S HOLIDAY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—67 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	(April Releases) IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN Frank Sinatra Jimmy Durante C—103 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)		MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker	TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR	BEAT THE BAND Frances Langford M—67 mins. (Rev. 2/24/47)		(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	(April Releases) BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME Abbott-Costello C—77 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	
April 12	(April Releases) GUILT OF JANET AMES Rosalind Russell Melvyn Douglas D—81 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	LITTLE MR. JIM Butch Jenkins James Craig D—94 mins. (Rev. 6/10/46)			FRONTIER FIGHTERS Buster Crabbe Fuzzy St. John	BELLS OF SAN ANGELO Roy Rogers Dale Evans	CODE OF THE WEST James Warren O—57 mins. (Rev. 2/21/47)			YOU CAN'T CHEAT AN HONEST MAN (Reissue) W. C. Fields C—73 mins. (Rev. 2/20/39)	STALLION ROAD Ronald Reagan Alexis Smith Zachary Scott
April 19	FRAMED Glenn Ford Janis Carter Barry Sullivan D—82 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	THE SEA OF GRASS Spencer Tracy Katherine Hepburn D—125 mins. (Rev. 2/13/47)			PHILO VANCE'S GAMBLE Alan Curtis Frank Jenks		THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER Loretta Young Joseph Cotten C—97 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)		(Jules Levey) NEW ORLEANS Arturo de Cordova Dorothy Patrick	I STOLE A MILLION (Reissue) George Raft Claire Trevor D—78 mins. (Rev. 7/18/39)	
April 26				THE IMPERFECT LADY Ray Milland Teresa Wright D—97 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	WEST TO GLORY Eddie Dean THUNDERGAP OUTLAWS						

[*Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.)* Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*]

Chicago Bids

(Continued from page 1)

with Loew's, Paramount, RKO Radio and 20th Century-Fox. And they are doing it in sufficient numbers to make the Chicago territory what appears to be the largest competitive bidding experimental station in the country today.

All local distributors believe that the volume of bidding will increase from day to day, reaching a high peak in the very near future. However, they also believe it will tend to level off eventually, particularly as overzealous exhibitors realize that even successful bidding can be unprofitable.

One spokesman said that a small exhibitor probably will not be able to bid in more than 15 or 16 new pictures a year on terms new to him which will prove profitable to both the exhibitor and distributor.

Summary of Situation

Following is a summary of the competitive bidding situation here of the four companies engaging in it, Loew's, RKO, Paramount and 20th-Fox.

RKO RADIO: Ten films offered the Bartelstein Circuit's Annetta and Jim Booth's Palace in Cicero. The Palace got nine, the Annetta, one. Six films have been offered both theatres in a second group, bidding on which is going on at the present time.

In Decatur, Great States' Lincoln and Empress got two, Gus Constan's Avon obtained two.

In Springfield, bidding will start with the next group of RKO releases. Competing are Great States' Orpheum and the Kerasotes Bros.' Senata.

Lewis Philon obtained six RKO pictures for second run for his Liberty, Michigan City, Ind., while Manta & Rose Circuit's Tivoli, Lido and Uptown in the same town have obtained none. RKO at present has nothing available for bidding for first-run in Michigan City.

In Toluca, Ill., John Tozzie, operator of the Roxy, obtained four RKO pictures while Russell Hurt, operator of the Isis, obtained one.

Bidding is currently going on for RKO product between Anderson Circuit's Wilton Theatre and Butcher Bros. Mar Theatre. Both houses are in Wilmington, Ill.

Pictures will shortly be offered to the Revue Theatre and Meltzer Bros. Rivoli, Chicago, for competitive bids.

Seven films have been offered for bidding to Morris Alshuler's Vision, booked by Si Greiver, and Ben Banowitz's Harmony, booked by Allied.

In Gary, Ind., RKO is offering a group of films to the Fifth Avenue, operated by Harry Abbott, and Tivoli, operated by V. U. Young, head of Theatrical Enterprises.

20th-Fox Offerings

TWENTIETH CENTURY - FOX: In Kewanee, Ill., the following pictures have been offered to both the Wanee Theatre and Great States' Peerless: "Razor's Edge," "13 Rue Madeleine," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "Wanted for Murder," and "Dangerous Millions."

In Chicago, the competing Harmon and Vision Theatres have been offered "My Darling Clementine," "Margie," "Dangerous Millions," and "Wanted for Murder."

In Michigan City, Ind., the following films have been offered for first-run to Lewis B. Philon's Liberty and Manta and Rose Circuit's Tivoli: "The Razor's Edge," "13 Rue Madeleine," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "Strange Journey," "Wake Up and Dream," "Dangerous Millions," "Wanted for Murder," and the following re-issues: "Stanley and Livingston," "Sun Valley Serenade," and "The Bowery."

For first-run in Decatur, Ill., for bidding between Gus Constan's Avon and Great States' Lincoln, "The Razor's Edge," "13 Rue Madeleine," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "Dangerous Millions," "Strange Journey" and "Wanted for Murder."

In Cicero, Ill., between Jim Booth's Palace and the Bartelstein's Annetta, the following have been offered: "The Razor's Edge," "13 Rue Madeleine," "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," "Strange Journey," "If I'm Lucky," and two re-issues, "Sun Valley Serenade," and "The Bowery."

Quick Availability

PARAMOUNT: Offering all pictures that become available eight days after Loop opening to Philon's Liberty, Michigan City, Ind., competing with the Tivoli, first run Manta & Rose Circuit house.

"Two Years Before the Mast" was won by Dudley Gazzolo's Imperial over Harry Lubliner, owner of the Four Star, while Ben Banowitz won the film for his Harmony against Morris Altcherler's Vision.

The same group of theatres also are bidding on Paramount's "Blue Skies."

Paramount also will offer pictures for bidding in Wilmington, Ill., when requested by Anderson Circuit's Wilton and Butcher Bros.

In Toluca, Ill., John Tozzie, operator of the Roxy, will be offered Paramount pictures in competition with Russell Hurt's Isis.

M-G-M: Has offered several groups of films in Cicero to Booth and Bartelsteins. The latest to be offered are: "The Beginning or the End," "My Brother Who Talks to Horses," "Gallant Bess," and two re-issues, "Rage in Heaven" and "Boom Town."

M-G-M has also offered films in disputes between the Harmony and Vision, Chicago; the Revue and Rivoli, Chicago; the Wanee and the Great States' Peerless, Kewanee; and Gus Constan's Avon and Great States' Lincoln, Decatur.

Critics' Quotes . . .

"THE BEGINNING OR THE END" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

. . . one of the most important films of our sorry decade . . . no mere documentary, but a tense, moving, inflammable and dramatic drama around the greatest news story of all time. . . . exceptionally well cast.—*Lee Mortimer, New York Daily Mirror.*

This amazing picture contains far more thrilling and suspenseful action than the average movie that is based on some fictional adventure tale . . . Every man and woman in the United States, as well as every child who has reached the age of reason, should see "The Beginning or the End."—*Kate Cameron, New York Daily News.*

Aside from the inevitable suspense and terror implicit in the subject matter, "The Beginning or the End" is a sorry dramatization of the atom bomb . . . performances veer wildly from realistic characterizations to mere speechmaking.—*Howard Barnes, New York Herald Tribune.*

. . . a powerful, intensely exciting production . . . a picture every one should see.—*Rose Pelswick, New York Journal-American.*

For all its formalized framework, its color-added, juvenile-lead scientist and its Hollywood-and-Vine-ripened heroines and the inevitable wax-museum effect, its various impersonations of contemporary characters cast over the drama of atomic energy, it is an extremely clear, thoughtful and dramatic presentation.—*John T. McManus, PM, New York.*

Possibly there is no story of modern times with the devastating, all-pervading significance of the subject of this picture . . . it's absorbing . . . distinctly Hollywood in its overdramatization . . . comes down to an almost juvenile level with Robert Walker's cozy characterization of a Colonel in charge of security.—*Archer Winsten, New York Post.*

. . . a picture at least 10 times better than I'd expected and I'd expected it to be pretty good . . . a fine example of movie-making . . . last minutes are Hollywood at its poorest, using the Lincoln Memorial as background for a badly written, badly acted sequence . . . the rest is too good for such a finish.—*Eileen Creelman, New York Sun.*

Metro has made a motion picture which fairly re-enacts the main events in this almost incredible story and which gravely points the fearfulness thereof . . . laced with sentiment of the silliest and most theatrical nature. —*Bosley Crowther, New York Times.*

Destroyed by Fire

UHRICHVILLE, O., March 13.— A fire of unknown origin almost completely demolished the State Theatre, here. Patrons left in an orderly manner and no injuries were reported even though the blaze started during a well-attended evening performance. Irving Gandell, the owner, plans to rebuild immediately.

Fire Proposal Delayed

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 13.—The Springfield City Council has indefinitely postponed action on a proposal to require theatres to pay for a fireman on duty during all showings. Theatres are already required to pay for a policeman at all shows.

Portland House Burns

PORTLAND, Ore., March 13.—Fire of undetermined origin caused $25,000 in damage to the 21st Avenue Theatre here. Leo Pallay is the owner of the house.

Georgia Theatre Fire

BLACKSHEAR, Ga., March 13.—The Royal, sole theatre here, was completely destroyed by a fire of undetermined origin.

Altec Promotes Thomas

Milton G. Thomas, who has been Altec's branch manager at Cincinnati, has been appointed district manager there by H. M. Bessey, vice-president.

RUNAWAY FIGURES!

"PURSUED"

TERESA WRIGHT ROBERT MITCHUM in MILTON SPERLING'S PRODUCTION of NIVEN BUSCH'S "PURSUED"

with JUDITH ANDERSON • DEAN JAGGER • ALAN HALE and Introducing JOHN RODNEY • ORIGINAL SCREEN PLAY BY NIVEN BUSCH • MUSIC BY MAX STEINER • Directed by RAOUL WALSH • Produced by UNITED STATES PICTURES for WARNER

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VOL. 61. NO. 52 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Reprieve for Arbitration May Be Asked

Consider Court Move to Keep Tribunals Intact

By TOM LOY

Theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit are considering asking the U. S. Supreme Court for a stay of the New York Federal District Court's order ending the industry arbitration system on April 1, except for the liquidation of cases filed prior to that date.

Having appealed from the New York order, the companies, which strongly urged retention of the system when the case was tried, now face the fact that, even if the high tribunal should grant the appeal, there will be no officially-constituted arbitration machinery between the end of this month and the early part of next year unless a stay is sought and obtained.

Paramount, Loew's and 20th Century-Fox are understood to favor seeking a stay, with RKO and War-

(*Continued on page 2*)

CSU Requests AFL Aid Here

Three representatives of Hollywood's Conference of Studio Unions, establishing temporary Eastern headquarters here for the purpose of soliciting financial support from American Federation of Labor locals in the New York area, reiterated CSU charges that the West Coast jurisdictional dispute was provoked by the producers, in presenting their case be-

(*Continued on page 6*)

5 at 20th Promoted By Silverstone

Arthur G. Doyle, formerly 20th Century-Fox managing director in India, has been named district manager for India, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Singapore, Siam and Indo-China, and Herbert White, until recently managing director of

(*Continued on page 2*)

President and Army Cite Jack Warner's War Work

RIVERSIDE, Cal., March 16.—The highest award of the U. S. Government to a civilian, the Medal for Merit, was presented Friday by General of the Army H. H. Arnold in behalf of the President to Jack L. Warner, Warner Brothers' production vice-president, in a ceremony at March Field, here, attended by military, industry and civic leaders.

Jack Warner

The award covers Warner's services to the War Department in the recruiting and organization of motion picture personnel for the Armed Forces, for the production of training and recruiting films, and for his participation in the provision of entertainment films for overseas.

In a personal tribute to Warner,

(*Continued on page 6*)

Columbia Meeting Starts Tomorrow

A three-day meeting of home office executives, district managers, and top sales personnel will be held by Columbia tomorrow through Thursday at the Hotel Warwick, New York. A. Montague, general sales manager, will preside.

Purpose of the meeting is to discuss selling plans under the Federal anti-

(*Continued on page 2*)

Studio Workers Want House to End Strike

Washington, March 16.—A plea for an immediate Congressional investigation of the Hollywood studio strike was made to the House Labor and Education Committee Friday by a studio employes committee.

The group urged that Congress enact legislation authorizing the courts to issue injunctions halting jurisdictional disputes. The committee said studio workers do not want to "resort to strikes." Its appeal was made by telegram to Congressman Richard Nixon (R.-Cal.) who turned the request over to the committee.

Plans 50 Theatres For Foreign Films

Conversion of nine West Coast theatres and plans to develop a 50-unit, nationwide circuit; all for the exhibition of imported product was disclosed here Friday by Sidney J. Pink, president of Trans-international Pictures Corp. of Los Angeles.

Pink simultaneously announced that his company has entered into distribution of foreign product, covering all territories west of Chicago, in association with Trans-international of New York, which will handle the films here. The company will release product of Super Films, Siritzky Brothers and others, he said.

End of Exhibitor Trust Attacks Seen Under a Decision Sustained by Court

Compliance with the New York Federal Court's equity decision, if sustained in U. S. Supreme Court, will mean the end of exhibitor trust suits against distributors, according to a consensus of legal opinion here.

Attorneys drew this conclusion from the fact that the decree covers all situations which prompted legal action by theatremen to date, and the unlikelihood of any new cause for anti-trust proceedings is remote to them.

One lawyer while in agreement on this, however, said he is frankly pessimistic as far as other exhibitor-distributor litigation is concerned. He explained that while he can assure conformity with the decree, he feels certain that some theatremen probably will have complaints concerning the injunction against product sales discrimination.

UA Joins 'U', Columbia in Asking Stays

Seeks Postponement of Distributor Injunctions

The three non-theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit lined up solidly at the weekend on a campaign to keep much of the New York Federal District Court's decree from going into effect this year, so far as their own distribution activities are concerned.

United Artists, unexpectedly joining Universal and Columbia in their efforts to obtain stays from the U. S. Supreme Court, prepared to file a petition today asking that the company be exempted from virtually all the injunctions against distributors until after a final ruling in the case.

Excepting only the decree clause that bans franchise agreements, UA will seek a stay of the orders against admission-price fixing, clearances other than those which are "reasonable" in competitive situations, formula deals, master agreements and the "arbitrary refusal" to license a

(*Continued on page 6*)

Radio Looks For PCA Aid

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The National Association of Broadcasters, now in the process of revising and strengthening its "standards of practice" for the radio industry, has consulted the Motion Picture Association on the Coast on the workings of the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Legion Explains Its Position on 'Duel'

The National Legion of Decency has classified "Duel in the Sun," after revision, as "B-Objectionable in Part." The reason for the classification is as

(*Continued on page 6*)

In This Issue

"Time Out of Mind" is reviewed on page 6.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, will return here today from the Coast.

•

JAMES PATRICK CUNNINGHAM, MOTION PICTURE DAILY news editor, will observe his 27th anniversary in film trade journalism today, having joined *Wid's* on St. Patrick's Day, 1920, as a copy boy.

•

CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, and RODNEY BUSH, exploitation manager, will leave here today on a tour of the South. They expect to return about April 1.

•

ROBERT J. O'DONNELL, WILLIAM MCCRAW and WINIFRED CUTLER are due in Hollywood today to make arrangements for the Variety Club convention in May.

•

BEN MELNICKER of the M-G-M home office legal department is the father of a baby boy, HARVEY DAVID, born recently at Beth David Hospital here.

•

JAMES V. O'GARA, Republic Eastern division sales manager, is in Cincinnati. He will return here next Monday following a visit to Cleveland.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner Brothers vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, is due to return here from the Coast next weekend.

•

PAUL MACNAMARA, Selznick Releasing Organization advertising-publicity chief, left New York on Friday for the Coast.

•

JOEL HARVEY of the M-G-M advertising department here, left New York by plane for Palm Springs, Fla., over the weekend.

•

ERNEST EMERLING, Loew's Theatres publicity director, will return here today from a two-week tour of the South.

Columbia Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

trust directive, as well as forthcoming top product, including "Framed" and "The Guilt of Janet Ames."

Among those attending from the home office will be Rube Jackter, Louis Astor, Irving Wormser, Maurice Grad, Leo Jaffe, George Josephs, H. C. Kaufman, Joseph Freiberg, Irving Sherman, Seth Raisler, Vincent Borelli, Irving Moross, Sydney Singerman and William Brennan.

From the field there will be: Nat Cohn, Sam Galanty, Carl Shalit, B. C. Marcus, I. H. Rogovin, R. J. Ingram, J. B. Underwood, H. E. Weiner, J. C. Bullwinkle, B. J. Lourie and Phil Fox.

Quimby Wins Fifth Award in Six Years

Hollywood, March 16.—When the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the M-G-M cartoon, "The Cat Concerto" as "the best short subject cartoon of the year," it was the fifth such award in the past six years to go to the company and producer Frederick Quimby.

Nine Assistants in Century Move-Overs

Nine additional assistant theatre manager changes have been made by Century Circuit, J. R. Springer, general theatre manager, announces.

The changes are: Fred Bethel to the 43rd St. Theatre in Long Island; Harry Johnson to the Tivoli, Brooklyn, replacing Enrico Ferrari who moved over to the Mayfair, Brooklyn, from where George Fascher was transferred to the Vogue; Murray Cohan moved from the Kingsway to the Linden, replacing Leo Schrank who went to the Nostrand, Brooklyn, from where Irwin Auerbach was transferred to the Elm; Lawrence Wicker moved from the Elm to the Albemarle, Brooklyn, replacing Harry Gilbert who was transferred to the Marine, Brooklyn.

Johnston Called by House Committee

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Eric Johnston, as chairman of the motion picture advisory committee of Hollywood, will be asked to testify before the House Un-American Activities committee on legislation to outlaw Communism, Chairman J. P. Thomas announced.

Hearings will begin on March 24. Legislation will be proposed which would make it "unlawful" to be a Communist.

Field, Iowa Theatre Man, Into Production

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Daniel E. Field is organizing an independent production company and plans as his first "Student Nurse," by Ann Froelick. Field is an officer of the Pioneers Theatre Corp., as well as Chief Theatres Corp., which operate in nine Iowa cities.

'Apley' Opens Thursday

The Radio City Music Hall's Easter film, "The Late George Apley," will open Thursday, following "The Sea of Grass." Bookings have been advanced all along the line at the Hall because "The Yearling" was limited to five weeks and "Grass" to three. "The Egg and I" will follow "Apley" and will be followed in turn by "Great Expectations."

Powers Heads Music

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Dick Powers has been named director of the M-G-M studio music department, succeeding the late David Chatkin.

Short Subjects

"One World or None"

(*Philip Ragan*)

Under the sponsorship of the National Committee on Atomic Information, Philip Ragan has produced an intelligent analysis of the devastating potentialities of the atom bomb by way of adeptly sketched illustrations, coupling this with a plea for world, not individual, control of the weapon as a means of avoiding the annihilation of nations. Raymond Gram Swing's narration adds to the forcefulness of the presentation. It seems worthy of consideration.

Film Publishers, Inc., New York, will release the short through states-right distributors, beginning next month. Running time, nine minutes.

"Bill Bailey and the Four Pillars"

(*Yorke-American Bankers Association*)

Based on a "Reader's Digest" article by J. P. McEvoy, this Emerson Yorke production, filmed in Tennessee, portrays the single-handed fight waged by Bill Bailey, local bank president, in winning farmers over to the four-crop system. Commentary is by Walter Preston. The film is available to theatres as well as to educational and business groups. Running time, 18 minutes.

Local Levies Seen In Effect by July

ALBANY, N. Y., March 16.—Passage by the Legislature of the bill permitting counties and cities of 100,000 or more population to impose a five per cent amusement tax, among a series of special levies to pay school teachers' pay increases, is expected to clear the path for taxes to be effected by July 1.

Industry spokesmen believe that some cities are likely to impose the amusement levy, although the New York contingent here on Wednesday did not think that city would do so immediately.

Charles Jones Named Levey Representative

Charles Reed Jones has been appointed special representative by Jules Levey for his forthcoming United Artists release, "New Orleans." Jones was recently national publicity director of the motion picture division for the March of Dimes campaign.

Lord Tyrrell, 80

LONDON, March 16.—Lord Tyrrell of Avon, president of the British Board of Film Censors and a former diplomat, died at his home on Friday. He was 80 years old.

Film Council in Capital

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Government and industry film personnel located here have organized a Washington Film Council. A committee is now drawing up a constitution and by-laws.

Newsreel Parade

ALL current newsreels spotlight President Truman's appeal for financial and military aid to Greece and Turkey, with Paramount News and RKO Pathe devoting nearly a full reel each to the subject. Other happenings reported generally include the New York warehouse fire, baseball training, other sport highlights, and some novelty items. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 57—President Truman addresses joint session of Congress on aid to Greece and Turkey. Warehouse fire in New York. Building cave-in in Cincinnati. Rhine River locked by cold wave. Philadelphia Athletics, Cincinnati Reds and Detroit Tigers in training. Ski-jumping youngsters.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 255—Truman urges action to halt Red threat. Marshall goes to Moscow. New Anglo-French alliance. Behind the scenes in Greece. Drought in Algeria. Germany's Rhine River is frozen over. Warehouse fire in New York.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 58 — Truman's speech to Congress on aid to Greece and Turkey (full reel, incorporating a report on events in Greece and Turkey leading up to the speech).

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 60—President Truman's speech on Greece (500 feet). New York warehouse fire. "Best Years of Our Lives" premiere in Washington.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 21 — President urges financial and military aid to Greece and Turkey. New York warehouse fire. Olympic ski try-out in Sun Valley. Smith College girls hold cavalcade of fashion. Mud-packs for men at Hollywood beauty shop. India elephant plays volley ball at Philadelphia zoo.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

ner Brothers said to oppose such a petition, presumably on the ground that a favorable ruling upon it would be difficult to obtain from the high tribunal.

Although Federal District Judges Augustus N. Hand, Henry W. Goddard and John Bright, who handed down the New York ruling in the suit, urged continuance of arbitration on a voluntary basis, they declared themselves powerless to order the system to go on, inasmuch as it was opposed by the Department of Justice. The distributors are understood to have decided that voluntary arbitration machinery would be impractical to operate.

5 at 20th Promoted

(*Continued from page* 1)

Cuba, succeeds Doyle as managing director of India. White is currently in New York and will leave for his new post late this month. The promotions were made by Murray Silverstone, president of 20th-Fox International Corp.

Other appointments include Andrew Jaeger, named manager of Puerto Rico, replacing Carlo Zeno who has retired; John Finder, promoted to assistant manager of Belgium after several months in the company's branch in Switzerland; Oscar Lax, transferred from Belgium to become assistant manager of the Middle East.

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Charles P. Skouras *Says:*

National Theatres Amusement Co., Inc.
1609 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles 7, California

Office of the President
Charles P. Skouras

Mr. Samuel Goldwyn
Samuel Goldwyn Productions
1040 North Formosa
Hollywood, California.

Dear Sam:

I thought you'd like to know what a heart warming experience it is to be roadshowing THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES in our theatres.

Week after week, THE BEST YEARS maintains the same, splendid gross with no appreciable drop. Audiences enjoy every minute of it and leave the theatre to tell their friends of a memorable and happy evening of entertainment.

To you, Robert Sherwood, Willie Wyler, the cast, and all the others you brought together for its production, I extend my congratulations.

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES is, indeed, one of the best motion pictures of our lives.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Skouras

CPS:lh

"THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES"

RECORD MONEY

...and Just Getting Started!

LOOK AT THE SENSATIONAL PRE-RELEASE RECORD TO DATE!

NEW YORK, Astor	18th WEEK
CHICAGO, Woods	14th WEEK
BOSTON, Esquire	14th WEEK
LOS ANGELES, Beverly	13th WEEK
Palace	9th WEEK
Guild	2nd WEEK
MIAMI, Colony	10th WEEK
JACKSONVILLE, St. John	3rd WEEK
ST. PETERSBURG, Playhouse	2nd WEEK
TAMPA, State	2nd WEEK
Palma Ceia	2nd WEEK
CINCINNATI, Capitol	2nd WEEK
DENVER, Aladdin	2nd WEEK
WASHINGTON, Keith's	2nd WEEK
MINNEAPOLIS, Pan	2nd WEEK
SAN DIEGO, Mission	2nd WEEK
Adams	2nd WEEK
SAN FRANCISCO, United Nations	1st WEEK
FORT MYERS, Lee	1st WEEK
COLORADO SPRINGS, Trail	1st WEEK
PROVIDENCE, Albee	1st WEEK
LONG BEACH, Santa Fe	1st WEEK
Town	1st WEEK
Cabart	1st WEEK
PALM SPRINGS, Plaza	1st WEEK
El Paseo	1st WEEK

SAMUEL GOLDWYN
presents

The BEST Years of (

STARRING

MYRNA LOY · FREDRIC MARCH · DANA ANDREWS · TERESA WRIGHT · VIRGIN

...LONG RUNS!

---AND SOON THE STORY WILL BE THE SAME, AS IT OPENS IN:

San Pedro, Cal., Strand....3/19
Greeley, Colo., Sterling....3/20
Buffalo, N. Y., 20th Century....3/20
St. Louis, Mo., St. Louis....3/20
Baltimore, Md., Town....3/20
Portland, Ore., Music Box....3/21
Richmond, Va., Capitol....3/26
Seattle, Wash., Music Hall....3/28
Salt Lake City, Utah, Rialto.... 4/1
Boise, Ida., Rialto.... 4/1
Provo, Utah, Academy.... 4/1
Long Beach, Cal., State (M.O.).... 4/2
New Orleans, La., Liberty.... 4/2
Orpheum 4/2
Bakersfield, Cal., Nile.... 4/2
Phoenix, Ariz., Visto.... 4/2
Stockton, Cal., State.... 4/2
Louisville, Ky., Strand.... 4/3
Rochester, N. Y., Temple.... 4/3
Santa Ana, Cal., West Coast.... 4/3
Sacramento, Cal., Capitol.... 4/3
Vallejo, Cal., Senator.... 4/3
Joplin, Mo., Electric.... 4/3
Cleveland, Ohio, Lower Mall.... 4/4
University.... 4/4
Syracuse, N. Y., Empire.... 4/4
Detroit, Mich., Downtown.... 4/4
Philadelphia, Pa., Arcadia.... 4/4
Pix.... 4/4
Riverside, Cal., Lido.... 4/4
Las Vegas, Nev., Huntridge.... 4/4
Montreal, Que., Kent.... 4/5
Miami, Fla., Royal.... 4/5
Milwaukee, Wisc., Riverside.... 4/5
Ft. Collins, Colo., State.... 4/5
Las Vegas, N. M., Coronado.... 4/5
Pocatello, Ida., Capitol.... 4/5
Kansas City, Mo., Power.... 4/5
Bridgeport, Conn., Klein Memorial.... 4/5
Macon, Ga., Bibb.... 4/6
Birmingham, Ala., Birmingham.... 4/6
Charlotte, N. C., Visulite.... 4/6
Raleigh, N. C., Colony.... 4/6
Durham, N. C., Uptown.... 4/6
Greensboro, N. C., State.... 4/6
Greenville, S. C., Paris.... 4/6
San Bernardino, Cal., Studio.... 4/6
El Centro, Cal., Valley.... 4/6
Redwood City, Cal., Redwood.... 4/6
San Jose, Cal., Padre.... 4/6
Burlingame, Cal., Broadway.... 4/6
Palo Alto, Cal., Varsity.... 4/6
Salinas, Cal., Alisal.... 4/6
Watsonville, Cal., State.... 4/6
Richmond, Cal., Grand.... 4/6
Berkeley, Cal., U. C.... 4/6
San Mateo, Cal., Baywood.... 4/6
Alliance, Neb., Rialto.... 4/6
Pomona, Cal., Sunkist.... 4/6
Pueblo, Colo., Main.... 4/8
Spokane, Wash., State.... 4/8
Portland, Me., Empire.... 4/9
New Bedford, Mass., New Bedford.... 4/9
Bellingham, Wash., American.... 4/9
Boulder, Colo., Varsity.... 4/9
Cheyenne, Wyo., Paramount.... 4/9
Ogden, Utah, Ogden.... 4/9
Springfield, Mass., Broadway.... 4/9
Worcester, Mass., Plymouth....4/10
Grand Junction, Colo., Avalon....4/10
Altoona, Pa., Olympic....4/10
Laramie, Wyo., Varsity....4/10
Sheridan, Wyo., Orpheum....4/10
Moberly, Mo., 4th St....4/10
Coffeyville, Kan., Ismo....4/10
Longmont, Colo., Longmont....4/11
Sterling, Colo., American....4/11
Excelsior Spgs., Mo., Siloam....4/11
Sedalia, Mo., Liberty....4/11
Topeka, Kan., Orpheum....4/11
Memphis, Tenn., Strand....4/12
Hamilton, Ont., Capitol....4/12
Savannah, Ga., Weis....4/13
Hutchinson, Kan., Strand....4/13
Dodge City, Kan., Crown....4/13
Calgary, Alta., Grand....4/14
Fresno, Cal., Tower....4/14
Edmonton, Alta., Rialto....4/15
Vancouver, B. C., Vogue....4/16
Hastings....4/16
Winnipeg, Man., Garrick....4/16
Oklahoma City, Okla., Plaza....4/16
Criterion....4/16
Everett, Wash., Balboa....4/16
Aberdeen, Wash., D & R....4/16
Cannon City, Colo., Rex....4/17
Muscatine, Iowa, Palace....4/17
Albany, N. Y., Grand....4/18
Norfolk, Va., Granby....4/18
Wenatchee, Wash., Vitaphone....4/18
Hot Springs, N. M., El Rio....4/19
Calexico, Cal., Capitol....4/20
Butte, Mont., Montana....4/20
Salina, Kan., El Ray....4/20
Saskatoon, Sask., Victory....4..21
Billings, Mont., Empire....4/23
Gt. Falls, Mont., Rainbow....4/23
Helena, Mont., Antlers....4/23
Missoula, Mont., Roxy....4/23
Duluth, Minn., Granada....4/24
Springfield, Mo., Kickapoo....4/24
Wichita, Kan., Sandra....4/24
Pittsburg, Kan., Cozy....4/24
La Junta, Colo., Scout....4/25
McCook, Neb., Temple....4/25
Halifax, N. S., Casino....4/26
Milwaukee, Wisc., Alhambra (M.O.)....4/26
Newton, Kan., Chief....4/27
Winfield, Kan., Zimm....4/27
Ottawa, Ont., Avalon....4/28
Victoria, B. C., Oak Bay....4/28
Dayton, Ohio, Colonial....4/30
Pittsfield, Mass., Colonial....4/30
Lewiston, Mont., Broadway.... 5/1
Schenectady, N. Y., Erie.... 5/2
Omak, Wash., Omak.... 5/2
Chelan, Wash., Ruby....5/2
Belleville, Ont., McCarthy.... 5/9
No. Bay., Ont., Melrose.... 5/9
New Haven, Conn., Shubert....5/11
London, Ont., Elmwood....5/12

FLASH! 31 INTERSTATE PLAYDATES JUST BOOKED FOR EARLY APRIL!

The ACADEMY AWARD PICTURE!
...winner of NINE academy awards!

ur Lives

AYO · HOAGY CARMICHAEL

Directed by
WILLIAM WYLER
Screen Play by
ROBERT E. SHERWOOD
From a novel by
MacKINLAY KANTOR
Director of Photography
GREGG TOLAND

Released through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

"One of the finest musical pictures ever filmed!" says HOLLYWOOD REPORTER of

Released thru UA

Review

"Time Out of Mind"

(*Universal*)

ROBERT SIODMAK foregoes murder and the psychological for straight drama on this occasion and comes up with a well-acted piece so leisurely in pace and content that it seems longer than its 88 minutes.

Perhaps Rachel Field, on whose novel "Time Out of Mind" is based, did her concentrating more on character development than on story progression. It is the film, not the book, which is up for appraisal here, however, and the analysis is that it takes a good deal of footage before Phyllis Calvert wins Robert Hutton.

Hutton plays the son of Leo G. Carroll, Maine shipowner who decrees the son must follow the father. The conflict between them develops because Hutton wants music to sing through his being, not the salty tang of the sea. Ella Raines, his sister, is on his side. So, too, is Miss Calvert, servant in the household and practically a member of the family. She conspires to get Hutton and Miss Raines off to Paris to pursue his muse.

He returns after three or more years to find his estranged father dead and Miss Calvert still in love. Hutton, meanwhile, has married the wealthy Helena Carter. It is an unsuccessful match, predicated on money. Hutton deliberately throws away a concert arranged for him, takes further to drink, is nursed back by Miss Calvert, recovers his stance as a composer and emerges triumphant at a New York concert. Miss Calvert and her love become triumphant, also.

This is all there is to the dramatic action. Performances, on the other hand, are better than the norm. In her first American-made film, Miss Calvert is very good. Hutton is far better than this reviewer has even seen him. The experienced Carroll, always to be relied upon for an intelligent acting job, does not disappoint. Good support comes from Eddie Albert as a minor-scale heavy and from John Abbott, whose characterization of music critic is one of the best things in the film. "Time Out of Mind" is top-grade all the way on the production side. On the entertainment side, it is satisfying at best. Abem Finkel and Arnold Phillips wrote the screenplay. Miklos Rozsa and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco prepared an effective music score.

Running time 88 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

CSU Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

fore delegates of various AFL unions at a meeting at the Hotel Piccadilly here Friday afternoon.

J. L. Nisbett, leader of the CSU delegation which also includes Walter R. Scheibel and Edward J. Smith, disclosed that since their arrival last Tuesday they had met with several locals, adding that they would hold further meetings this week in Brooklyn and Queens.

Unions attending the Friday meeting included the International Association of Machinists, whose Hollywood local is part of the CSU and the Brotherhood of Painters, also involved in the Coast dispute. In addition to a pledge of $10,000 from the painters and a suggestion by Louis Weinstock, of the Brooklyn district council, that the union collect $1 from each member, it was disclosed that the machinists union has been contributing almost $3,000 a week to the CSU fund.

Meanwhile, efforts of the CSU to bring about a strike settlement conference of all parties to the dispute over the weekend, as reported Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, appeared headed for at least temporary delay. Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, said here that he would be willing to hold such a conference with William Hutcheson, international president of the Carpenters Brotherhood, and L. P. Lindelof, international president of the Painters Brotherhood. Walsh indicated that action by these executives alone could resolve the issues in the jurisdictional dispute.

HOLLYWOOD, March 16. — U. S. Conciliator Frank Wenig, who conferred on Thursday with CSU president Herbert Sorrell on issues underlying the studio strike, met on Friday with the major producers' labor contact man Pat Casey in an exploratory session. An expected conference with IATSE international representative Roy M. Brewer, was postponed due to Brewer's illness.

Jack Warner Cited

(*Continued from page* 1)

Gen. Arnold said: "The entire motion picture industry won the gratitude of the nation for the part it played through our four years of conflict. Jack Warner, a leader in that industry, is a fine example of the wholehearted effort and integrity of that great part."

Arnold was introduced by Brigadier-Gen. John P. Doyle, who explained that the Medal for Merit grew out of the badge for military merit which was established by Gen. George Washington in 1782 and in its present form was authorized by executive order of President Roosevelt in 1942. "Since then," General Doyle said, "it has been awarded to those few civilians who have most distinguished themselves by their service to their country."

President Truman's citation of Warner for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States" was read by Major L. C. Quinn, Jr.

In addition to the civilian service for which he was cited in this connection, Warner entered active army duty with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to expedite the development of the first motion picture unit. That duty completed, he returned to civilian life to aid in the mobilization of the motion picture industry for war effort. President Truman's citation credited Warner with having, "on his own initiative, pointed out to the armed services of the United States the use which could be made of motion pictures in the effective prosecution of the war."

Asking Stays

(*Continued from page* 1)

feature on a run selected by an exhibitor, all of which are scheduled to go into effect April 1. Likewise to be requested is a stay of competitive bidding, which is due to start July 1.

"A tremendous hardship" will be imposed on UA if these sections of the decree are placed in effect and then finally reversed by the high tribunal, the company will point out, adding that, in such an event, it would have to "undo everything it h[illegible]ried to do" to comply with the Ne[illegible]ork rulings.

Columbia's application for a stay, filed on Friday, elaborates on the same general argument as planned by UA. Incorporating a statement by Abe Montague, Columbia vice-president and general sales manager, it declares that the selling and administrative detail required by competitive bidding would force the company to add approximately $600,000 per year in augmented personnel; $300,000 through increasing the sales force from 100 to 140, another $200,000 in the exchanges and $100,000 in the home office.

Columbia further argues that it would be forced to compete on unfair terms with Producers Releasing, Monogram and Republic, which are not bound by the decree, and with the five theatre-owning defendants, which can show their own product in their own theatres on any terms they choose. Moreover, the application declares, the slowing down of licenses under competitive bidding would slow down the turnover of working capital, thus causing "considerable refinancing and costly borrowing." Inevitably, Columbia argues, these increased costs would have to be passed on to the exhibitor and then to the public.

Legion on 'Duel'

(*Continued from page* 1)

set forth as follows:

"Immodestly suggestive sequences; glorification of illicit love."

"In effecting the revision the producer, David Selznick, has responded with cooperation and understanding to critical reaction subsequent to the trial engagement of the film in Los Angeles and has thus displayed an awareness of responsibility for the moral and social integrity of motion pictures," said a statement issued by the National Legion of Decency, here.

PCA, Radio

(*Continued from page* 1)

Production Code Administration for whatever application can be made to higher radio standards.

Don Petty, NAB general counsel, just returned from Hollywood, will report on results of the study and his consultations with the MPA, at NAB's Special Standards of Practice Committee meeting in New York on March 31.

SCREENCRAFT PICTURES, INC.
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35MM — Distributors of — 16MM
FEATURES, WESTERNS, COMEDIES and SHORTS

Screen Guild's SHOWMEN'S GROUP Number 3

Adventure!
Action!
Romance!

"Buffalo Bill Rides Again"

with
RICHARD ARLEN
Jennifer HOLT · Lee SHUMWAY

Producer, JACK SCHWARZ
Director, BERNARD B. RAY

Greed!
Gold!
Glamour!

"THE Bells of San Fernando"

with
Donald WOODS · Gloria WARREN
Shirley O'HARA · Anthony WARDE

Producer, JAMES S. BURKETT
Associate Producer
RENAULT DUNCAN
Director
TERRY MORSE

Fearless!
Daring!
Roaring!

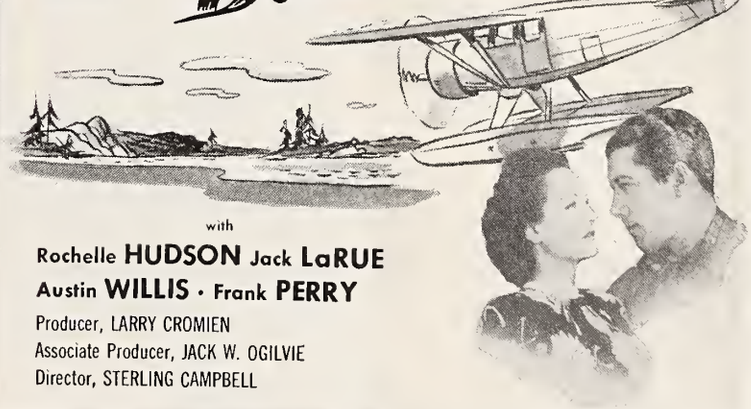
"SHOOT TO KILL"

with
Russell WADE · Edmund MacDONALD
Douglas BLACKLEY · Susan WALTERS

Produced and Directed by WILLIAM BERKE

Rugged
Daredevils
of the
North!

"Bush Pilot"



with
Rochelle HUDSON Jack LaRUE
Austin WILLIS · Frank PERRY
Producer, LARRY CROMIEN
Associate Producer, JACK W. OGILVIE
Director, STERLING CAMPBELL

DETECTIVE ACTION STREAMLINERS

"THE HAT BOX MYSTERY" Tom NEAL · Pamela BLAKE · Virginia SALE

"The Case of the BABY SITTER" Tom NEAL · Pamela BLAKE · Virginia SALE

Directed by LAMBERT HILLYER

Distributed by **SCREEN GUILD Productions, Inc.**

HOME OFFICE 346 So. La Brea, Hollywood, California • FOREIGN DEPT. 723 7th Avenue, New York City

We've got them both!

"The Imperfect Lady"

with

Sir Cedric Hardwicke · Virginia Field · Reginald Owen · Anthony Quinn · Melville Cooper

Produced by Karl Tunberg · Directed by Lewis Allen

Screen Play by Karl Tunberg

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 53 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1947 TEN CENTS

See Tax Fight In at Least 3 N. Y. Cities

5 Other 'Danger Points'; Plan Opposition Meeting

With at least three of New York State's seven largest municipalities expected by theatre men to consider passing five per cent admission tax ordinances, the exhibitor committee which fought the legislature's act authorizing such measures will meet here next week to plan opposition to the levies on the local level.

The state law, regarded as certain of signature by Gov. Dewey, will enable all counties and those cities which have over 100,000 population to impose the tax. Of the cities, Buffalo and Yonkers are understood to incline toward doing so, while Mayor O'Dwyer has said here that he is glad

(*Continued on page 2*)

Ohio Now Faces a Local Tax System

COLUMBUS, O., March 17.—Sounding a "call to arms," P. J. Wood, secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, tells Ohio exhibitors, in a special bulletin, to contact their state representatives immediately and voice their opposition to Gov. Thomas J. Herbert's proposal that the state vacate the admission tax field and permit municipalities to impose local admission taxes.

"If this bill were passed by the legislature," said the Wood bulletin, "it would bring down upon the amusement industry in Ohio a hodge-podge of local amusement taxes of varying rates as high as 10 per cent."

Columbia Opens Sales Parley Here Today

Twenty-five Columbia home-office executives and field men will begin a three-day sales meeting at the Hotel Warwick here today. A. Montague, general sales manager, will preside.

On the agenda will be discussion of selling plans under the Federal anti-trust directive. Future product also will figure in the talks.

Seattle Impatient For Bidding Start

Seattle, March 17.—Numerous exhibitors in this area are looking forward to the introduction of competitive bidding here with keen anticipation. The view of most toward the new licensing system appears to be favorable.

Typical of local exhibitor comment is this from Roy Johnson, general manager of Jensen and Von Herberg Theatres: "We would very much like to see distributors start the new system."

MGM Considers One 'Big' Decree Meeting

With many provisions of the industry anti-trust suit decree scheduled to go into effect officially on April 1, M-G-M compliance policies may be outlined at a single meeting of sales personnel from all over the country rather than through a series of regional sessions, it was indicated here yesterday following the return of William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager, after six weeks on the Coast.

Rodgers discussed the matter yesterday with Nicholas M. Schenck, president of the company, and a prompt decision now is expected. First meeting in the originally intended series was held in Chicago just prior to Rodgers' Hollywood visit.

Weitman Nominated B'nai B'rith Head

Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount Theatre and one of the entertainment industry's key workers on behalf of charitable undertakings, has been nominated to the presidency of New York's Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith, whose membership has reached 1,400. Elections will be held at the Hotel

(*Continued on page 7*)

Selznick Sales Meet Starts Tomorrow

Neil Agnew, president of Selznick Releasing Organization, and Milton Kusell, general sales manager, have summoned all SRO district sales managers to attend a sales meeting in New York tomorrow and Thursday, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Attending will be Sam Horowitz, Chi-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Hit Snag in Ending Pools

Interpretation of what constitutes a partnership and what a pool, with specific references to joint arrangements which have no individual corporate set-up, has created a snag for defendants in the Federal anti-trust suit who are now in the process of implementing the New York Federal Court order for dissolution of such agreements in theatre operation.

That this stumbling-block has arisen was revealed yesterday by Dan Michalove, vice-president of National Theatres, 20th Century-Fox subsidiary, upon his return here from the Coast where the Fox West Coast Theatres-Paramount pool in San Francisco has been dissolved. Paramount, he revealed, will take over operation of the three theatres involved in the pool on March 26, six days before the date set by the decree for terminating pools between defendant companies.

While the pool with Paramount was the only instance in which this phase

(*Continued on page 7*)

U-I Wins Franchise Case; Cited Decree

COLUMBUS, O., March 17.—Having contended that a three-year franchise between Universal-International and the Drexel Amusement Co., a Miles Circuit affiliate, was inoperative under terms of the decision rendered by the court in the industry New York anti-trust suit, U-I won a dismissal of the injunction suit brought by Drexel in an attempt to prevent the defendants from selling films to other theatres in the Drexel competitive area. This was the first case of its kind to follow the New York decision which held that franchises are illegal.

Johnston Sets Off On Tour of Studios

HOLLYWOOD, March 17. — Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston started a series of meetings with major studio executives, producers and writers today by visiting the Paramount, RKO-Radio and Columbia studios here. Although the nature of the talks was not disclosed, MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned that the principal topics were foreign market conditions, domestic censorship and how film makers can co-operate in these connections by observing the Production Code.

Code Administrator Joseph I. Breen and Johnston's executive assistant, Joyce O'Hara, accompany Johnston.

'U', Rank and Schlesinger In 3-Way Deal

Also, Schlesinger Will Acquire U. S. Interests

A three-way film and theatre alliance has been consummated between the Schlesinger group of South Africa, the J. Arthur Rank group of Great Britain and the Universal group of America. Also, Schlesinger plans to acquire film interests in the U. S., said Universal yesterday.

A joint statement released simultaneously yesterday in New York, London and Johannesburg follows: "The film and theatre alliance now consummated provides for the exhibition in Africa, South of the Equator, of all films produced by Universal-International and the Rank group, which represents the major film production of Great Britain.

"In the territory governed by the affiliation, distribution to over 400 theatres is controlled by the Schlesinger group, which operates a large number itself, and will serve the balance which are independently operated.

"Under this alliance, Rank and Uni-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Independent Sues Schine, 8 Companies

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Suit has been filed in District Court here by Shore Amusement, Inc., of Milford, Del., against Schine Circuit, and its affiliate Chesapeake Theatres Corp., charging violation of the Sherman Act.

Also named defendants in the $105,-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Sell 'Jolson Story' Away from Richards

New Orleans, March 17. — Columbia is selling "The Jolson Story" away from Paramount - Richards Theatres. Picture played the opposition Joy Theatre here and has been bought by independents in Paramount-Richards towns elsewhere in this territory.

This development occurs shortly after 20th Century-Fox started selling away from Paramount-Richards.

Personal Mention

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic vice-president, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, and MURRAY SILVERSTONE, head of 20th-Fox International, who were slated to leave here yesterday for South America, have delayed their departure until today.

•

LEONARD GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, returned to New York yesterday from California.

•

RICHARD BORIS MORROS, son of producer BORIS MORROS, was married to DIANE JOYCE BERMAN at the Hotel Plaza, here, yesterday.

•

LIGE BRIEN, assistant exploitation manager of Eagle-Lion, will leave here today for Buffalo, returning on Friday.

•

BURTUS BISHOP, JR., M-G-M district manager, returned to Dallas yesterday from Little Rock.

•

SILAS F. SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave here for the Coast on Thursday.

•

ROBERT GILLHAM, J. Walter Thompson account executive, has returned to New York from Florida.

•

MILTON KUSELL, Selznick Releasing Organization executive, has returned here from Hollywood.

Nine Cocalis N. J. Houses Go to Alden

Alden Theatre Corp., New Jersey, an affiliate of B. and Q. Associates, has leased from Cocalis Theatres, nine houses in New Jersey, J. J. Thompson, Cocalis representative, reported yesterday. Theatres are: Elmora, Royal and Strand in Elizabeth; Empire and Rahway, Rahway; Park, Newark; Roslyn, Roselle; Park, Roselle Park; Maplewood, Maplewood. Donald Jacocks is Alden president.

$2,500,000 E-L Deal

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—A 10-year contract between Vera Caspary, author, and Eagle-Lion Studios has been consummated, under the terms of which Miss Caspary is to deliver one story annually to Eagle-Lion and will receive a flat sum for each story and five per cent of net profits on each. It is estimated by E-L that this will net the author at least $2,500,000 in the 10 years.

Wm. Hosie Leaves Disney

William Hosie has resigned as Eastern publicity representative for Walt Disney Productions, after seven years with that organization. Hosie, formerly assistant to the studio publicity head, came East 10 months ago. His resignation becomes effective April 1 at which time he plans to return to Hollywood.

Monogram Directors To Meet March 22

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Steve Broidy, president of Monogram and Allied Artists, will leave Hollywood tomorrow for Chicago, accompanied by George D. Burrows, treasurer, and Howard Stubbins, Pacific Coast franchise owner, to attend a quarterly board of directors meeting at the Blackstone Hotel on March 22. Following the meeting Broidy will go to Miami, to attend the world premiere of Roy Del Ruth's "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," Allied Artists release which will open day and date at the Capitol and Tower Theatres in Miami, and the Lincoln Theatre, Miami Beach, on April 5.

Broidy will then go to Dallas, Texas, for the April 24 premiere of the picture at the Majestic Theatre.

Suits Expected on Back-Tax Bills

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Former members of so-called personal corporations, which are formed to make one picture and then dissolve, are expected to contest the Treasury Department's right to ask back-tax payments. These corporations dissolve after collecting distribution profits and thus receive the benefit of the cut-rate liquidation tax rather than paying full earning revenue.

Following last year's ruling on capital gains in the film business, the Los Angeles and New York offices of the Internal Revenue Bureau have been sending bills to ex-members of personal corporations.

Tennessee Escapes Proposed Film Tax

MEMPHIS, March 17.—The State General Assembly has adjourned without enacting any admission tax. A proposed bill to put a five per cent state tax on theatre tickets never reached the floor of either house.

The Attorney General's office has held that the two per cent sales tax, which will take effect on June 1 in Tennessee does not apply to theatre admissions.

Indiana Governor Vetoes ASCAP Bill

INDIANAPOLIS, March 17. — Gov. Ralph F. Gates has vetoed a copyright bill which was directed against the operation of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in that state.

Under provisions of the bill, owners of copyright musical works were forbidden to operate in conjunction with other copyright owners to enforce payments for the public performance of their works.

Pathe Eleven-Month Profit Is $1,073,396

Pathe Industries, Inc., had a net profit of $1,073,396 for the first 11 months of 1946, equal to 73 cents on each of 1,306,838 common shares, on net sales of $14,977,306. Net profit for 1945 was $511,212 on net sales of $8,474,860.

Release Switch Halts Schlaifer Trip South

Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox advertising publicity director, has indefinitely postponed his scheduled Southern trip to work on long-range publicity plans for Darryl F. Zanuck's "Gentlemen's Agreement," which will now be released this season instead of next. Exploitation manager Rodney Bush is making the tour without Schlaifer, who originally intended to hold local exhibitor and advertising meetings with Bush in Atlanta, Charlotte, Jacksonville and Miami.

The "Gentlemen's Agreement" campaign will be set up immediately by Schlaifer and will be similar to the drive for "The Razor's Edge."

E-L Production Is Well Along; Foy Here

With two pictures completed, two editing, two in production and nine ready for filming, Bryan Foy, Eagle-Lion production vice-president, arrived in New York yesterday from Hollywood to make his first progress report to the board of directors of Pathe Industries, E-L's parent company, and home office heads.

Foy has completed rebuilding the studio at a cost of $1,500,000, and has a filming schedule covering the next 12 months.

Jeff Davis Returns As UA Atlanta Head

ATLANTA, March 17.—Jeff Davis, formerly with United Artists in Atlanta and later transferred to New Orleans, will return here to replace Henry Krumm as branch manager.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 13, Krumm left his UA post here to join the Selznick Releasing Organization as Southern division sales manager.

Bernard Hirsh Funeral

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—Funeral services were held today for Bernard Hirsh, president of the Hirsch Amusement Co., motion picture theatre operators. Hirsch, who was active in the industry for 35 years, died here on Friday. A native Philadelphian, he once managed a chain of 23 theatres in Arizona.

Tax Fight

(*Continued from page 1*)

New York will have the taxing power. Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany and Schenectady, other cities affected, are regarded by the exhibitors as possible "danger points." The counties, on the other hand, are considered unlikely to tax admissions, inasmuch as they have sources thought capable of yielding larger revenue.

The exhibitor committee which was active in Albany last week includes: Robert W. Coyne, American Theatres Association; Oscar Doob, Loew's Theatres; Fred J. Schwartz, Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association; Morton Sunshine, Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York; H. J. Walters, RKO Theatres; and Sol Ullman, Fabian Theatres.

Coast Convention in May

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will hold its annual convention in Los Angeles May 6 through 8.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Spencer TRACY - Katharine HEPBURN
Robert WALKER - Melvyn DOUGLAS
"THE SEA OF GRASS"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

3rd HIT WEEK!
"UNUSUAL! SUPERIOR!" — Times
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.
MAUREEN O'HARA · WALTER SLEZAK
SINBAD THE SAILOR
IN GORGEOUS TECHNICOLOR

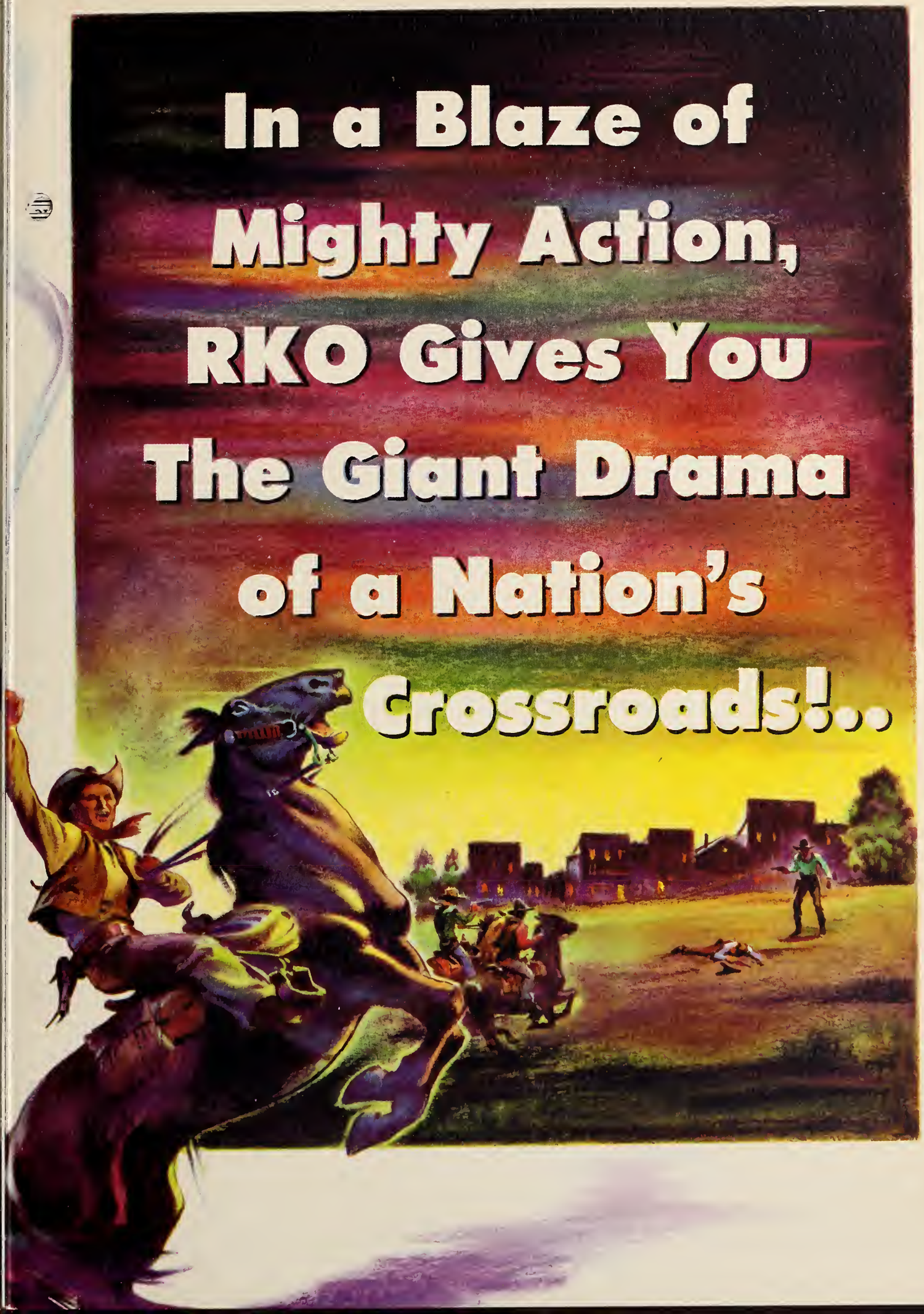
LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
YOU and ROBT. MONTGOMERY
Audrey TOTTER
'LADY IN THE LAKE'
IN PERSON
MICHAEL O'SHEA
J. C. HEARD
The WILDE TWINS
plus OTHERS

Paramount presents
Paulette Goddard
Fred MacMurray
in "Suddenly It's Spring"
in Person
JOHNNY LONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA
JOAN EDWARDS
LEWIS & VAN
BUDDY LESTER
DON BAKER at the organ
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

THE ACADEMY AWARD PICTURE.
WINNER OF 9 ACADEMY AWARDS.
"The BEST Years of Our Lives"
Continuous Performances
ASTOR B'WAY and 45th ST.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER
B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open
9:30 A. M.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpuhco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


In a Blaze of
Mighty Action,
RKO Gives You
The Giant Drama
of a Nation's
Crossroads!..

The lusty story of those lawless days when frontier Kansas roared—when badmen ruled and women had no say—when it took a fearless two-gun fighting man to tame a town wilder than Dodge City...Big "Bat" Masterson, the famous U.S. Marshal whose shooting arm wrote history in the making of a mighty State!

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Produced by NAT HOLT • Directed by RAY ENRIGHT • Screen Play by Norman Houston and Gene Lewis

TRAIL STREET

starring

RANDOLPH SCOTT · ROBERT RYAN

ANNE JEFFREYS · GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES

MADGE MEREDITH • STEVE BRODIE • BILLY HOUSE

RKO AD GUNS ROAR!

—Blasting out the big news about a great action entertainment to the readers of the

88,421,433 CIRCULATION

of National Magazines like Life—Look—Saturday Evening Post—Cosmopolitan—True—22 Pulp Favorites—Fan Publications . . . with full-color comic-strip type ads in the Magazine Sections of Supplements of 101 important Sunday Newspapers!

TRAIL STREET

LITHO U.S.

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

PITTSBURGH

Despite wintry weather, "The Best Years of Our Lives" is setting box-office records here. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 20:

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $9,700)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $25,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Penn. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,500)
THE SHANGHAI GESTURE (Crown) and MILLIE'S DAUGHTER (Col.)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,200)
PURSUED (WB)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $25,000)
LADIES' MAN (Para.)—WARNER (2,060) (40c-55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)

BALTIMORE

The combination of good weather and substantial new attractions is boosting business to something better than has been scored in recent weeks. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 20:

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—CENTURY (3,000) (29c-37c-46c-54c and 56c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $14,000)
SMASH-UP (U-I)—KEITH'S (2,406) (29c-37c-44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $12,000)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (28c-40c-50c-58c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $12,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—STANLEY (3,280) (29c-47c-50c-58c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,500)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (29c-37c-50c-59c) 7 days, 2nd week. With stage show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $17,500)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,500)
SUN VALLEY SERENADE (20th-Fox)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (21c-29c-45c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,500)
BRIEF ENCOUNTER (U-I)—LITTLE (328) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,000)

'Ragtime Band' Reissued

A trade press screening of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band," 20th Century-Fox reissue, was held at the company's home office here yesterday. MOTION PICTURE DAILY reviewed the picture on May 26, 1938.

'U'-Rank-Schlesinger

(*Continued from page* 1)

versal have acquired an interest in African Consolidated Theatres and African Consolidated Films, the control of which companies remains with Schesinger.

"Owing to building restrictions still in force, a considerable portion of the building program of African Consolidated Theatres has not yet been carried out, but immediately the building of theatres becomes possible in the territory, which is anticipated will be in about five years, the full building program will be completed, sites having already been acquired.

"The Schlesinger group, through African Film Productions, has plans for the future development of film production in South Africa in connection with which large studios are to be erected at Parkmore, Johannesburg and it is anticipated that Rank and Universal may also become interested in African Film Productions, thereby making available the production resources of those two groups for the future development of film production in South Africa through that company."

Ending Pools

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the decree applies to National, Michalove indicated that in undertaking a survey of those pools with non-defendants for dissolution by the July 1 deadline established in the decree, company attorneys encountered difficulties in deciding which type of arrangement might be interpreted by the Government as a pool and which as a partnership. Under the decree, partnerships must be dissolved by Dec. 31, 1948, two years from the issuance of the court order, to allow sufficient time for transfer of stock.

Scrupulous examination of clauses in partnership and pooling deals, Michalove pointed out in referring to National Theatre arrangements, have brought to light questionable stipulations which could be regarded as changing a partnership into a pool.

Independent Sues

(*Continued from page* 1)

000 anti-trust action are Paramount, Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Brothers, RKO-Radio, Universal, United Artists and Republic Pictures.

The brief charges that the defendants conspired to keep the Shore Theatre from getting first-run product, which was sold to Schine's Plaza.

The management wrote all defendant distributors requesting product, the petition related, adding, "Only defendants Paramount, 20th-Fox, RKO and Republic acknowledged the letters and those defendants all informed plaintiff that they had no pictures available for the Shore."

Weitman Nominated

(*Continued from page* 1)

Astor, Tuesday evening, March 25. Jack H. Levin, vice-president and general manager of Confidential Reports, Inc., is the incumbent president.

Nominated for vice-presidencies are Julius Collins, ASCAP; S. M. Chartock, producer; S. Arthur Glixon, attorney; Bernard Goodman, Warner Brothers; Leo Jaffe, Columbia Pictures; Marvin Kirsch, *Radio Daily*; Martin Levine, Brandt Theatres; Milton Livingston, Universal; Nat K. Loder, Republic Pictures; Louis A. Novins, Paramount. With the exception of Collins who is currently secretary, all of the vice-presidents are renominations.

Max B. Blackman, Warner Brothers, has been renominated for treasurer; Malvin T. Davidson, attorney, has been nominated for secretary; Dr. Morris K. Silberman has been nominated for sergeant-at-arms; and Rabbi Bernard Birstein of the Actors' Temple has been nominated for the post of second chaplain, Rabbi Ralph Silverstein, the incumbent chaplain, having been renominated.

Selznick Sales Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

cago; Edward Fontaine, Washington; A. J. Delcambrae, Dallas; Tom Duane, Boston; Henry Krumm, Atlanta; John Howard, Los Angeles.

National release of "Duel in the Sun," David O. Selznick, is scheduled as the first subject on the agenda. Plans for the release Sept. 1 of the Selznick-Alfred Hitchcock "The Paradine Case" will also be arranged. The sales force will also discuss plans for the release this year of Selznick's "Portrait of Jennie." Also on the agenda is the re-issue this summer of Selznick's "Intermezzo."

The SRO production schedule, Agnew and Kusell revealed, will be continuous and also on the program is the F. Scott Fitzgerald "Tender Is the Night"; "Rupert of Hentzau," "Tess of the D'Ubervilles," "Dark Medallion," "The Scarlet Lily," "Little Women," "Trent's Last Case," "Sarah Bernhardt," "Conspiracy," "Intimate Notes."

Form New Haven Council

NEW HAVEN, March 17.—A motion Picture Council, representing about 12 local groups, has been formed here.

IT'S TIME!

It's time you learned about Filmack's NEW Prevue Trailer Service. It's READY NOW! For full information write Filmack, 1321 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

Monte Carlo
"PREVIEW ROOM"
... will really SELL your picture.
Fully equipped for 35MM, 16MM, and Slide Projection.
Cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners served in this versatile room — setting a gay mood for a favorable reaction to your film.
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Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

TO EACH HIS OWN . . . AND PARAMOUNT'S OWN IS

Olivia De Havilland

1946 Winner of the Academy Award for
the Best Performance by an Actress . . . in

"To Each His Own"

OLIVIA De HAVILLAND
in
"TO EACH HIS OWN"
with
Mary Anderson · Roland Culver
Virginia Welles · Phillip Terry
Bill Goodwin · *and introducing* John Lund
A MITCHELL LEISEN Production
Produced by Charles Brackett
Directed by Mitchell Leisen
Screen Play by Charles Brackett
and Jacques Thery

Paramount

salutes its newest Academy Award winner for this honor that takes its place beside last year's Academy Awards to "The Lost Weekend" and the previous year's Academy honors to "Going My Way."

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 54 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1947 TEN CENTS

NY Indecent Ad Bill Killed By Amendment

Surprise Move Follows Mounting Opposition

ALBANY, N. Y., March 18.—An unexpected amendment to the indecent advertising bill by Assemblyman Malcolm Wilson, one of the co-sponsors of the bill, has killed the measure for this session of the legislature. The State Constitution requires that a printed copy of every bill must be on each Legislator's desk for three days. With the adjournment deadline hours away, there is no chance of meeting this requirement, unless Gov. Dewey should waive it, which he is not expected to do.

It is rumored here that the amend-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Names . . . *in Today's News*

SAMUEL BURGER has been appointed sales manager of Loew's International, by Morton A. Spring, vice-president, who, at the same time, named Maurice (Red) Silverstein regional sales director for Latin America.

Prior to Burger's new appointment he was regional director for Latin America and before that was M-G-M Eastern district sales manager, here. He later became a home office representative traveling abroad.

Silverstein has been with M-G-M's international department for 15 years, as manager in the Far East, South America and Southeast Asia. During the war he was with the OWI.

Clark Promotes Sobel and Milner in PRC Sales

Sam Sobel, veteran Pacific Coast showman, has been appointed West Coast sales supervisor for PRC, by Ralph Clark, general sales manager.

Sobel, original owner of the PRC franchise in the San Francisco area, became the company's West Coast district manager when it acquired Seattle and Portland franchises, recently.

In a further realignment of sales personnel, Clark announces that Sam Milner, former branch manager in Los Angeles, will replace Sobel as West Coast district manager, over Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and

(*Continued on page 6*)

Competitive Bidding in NY May Wait Until July 1

The competitive bidding system of film sales, which has been inaugurated gradually by several distributors in various parts of the country, especially among theatres in smaller situations, may not be started in New York City before July 1, when the bidding clause of the industry anti-trust decree goes into effect officially, it was indicated in exchange circles here yesterday. Spokesmen for distributor legal departments, however, declined to comment.

Reason for the delay, it was indicated, is that competitive situations requiring bidding are less numerous, proportionately, in a heavy subsequent-run area like New York than in smaller places where the rivalry between the few existing houses is more pronounced.

Bearing out this theory are recent reports that requests for bids from local theatres here have been conspicuous by their absence, but a substantial number of such requests now is understood to have reached at least one home office, to be passed on from there to its exchange within a few days.

The bidding system has been started

(*Continued on page 6*)

FCC Denies CBS Color Video Permit

Washington, March 18.—The Federal Communications Commission today denied the petition of Columbia Broadcasting for the right to put its color television system on a commercial basis.

J. R. Poppele, president of Television Broadcasters Association, yesterday stated here that the FCC rejection of the CBS petition would mean "greatly accelerated" production of television receivers and applications for television station permits. TBA, among others, strongly opposed CBS's application.

National Gives Up Its Mexican Houses

LOS ANGELES, March 18.—National Theatres headquarters here discloses a complete withdrawal from Mexican exhibition through disposition of its 51 per cent interest in the Del Norte circuit of 38 theatres, jointly held with Frederico Rodriguez, to Theodore Gildred's newly-formed Credito Cinematografico.

The deal, negotiated with Charles Skouras, National's president, provides for B. V. Sturdivant, for the past two years NT's representative in Mexico, to remain as general manager of Credito, under a 10-year contract. The latter organization, with which Rodriguez remains affiliated, is capitalized at $6,000,000 and in addition to theatre interests will sponsor production at a new studio being constructed in Tepeyac.

The transaction with NT was on a cash basis for an undisclosed amount.

Johnston Warns of Film Effects Abroad

HOLLYWOOD, March 18.—Continuing his round of major studios to address executives, producers, directors and writers, Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston today counselled against unnecessary screen presentation of drinking, sex situations and loose conduct in general, lest pictures give rise to a false conception of

(*Continued on page 6*)

Enlarged Schedule For E-L in '47-48

Eagle-Lion expects to have a larger production schedule in 1947-48 than it did in 1946-47, for which 10 pictures were set, Bryan Foy, vice-president in charge of production, who is here from the Coast, said yesterday. Where the company made two in Cinecolor this season, next

(*Continued on page 6*)

Okla. Senate Group Kills Local Tax Bill

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 18.—The Oklahoma Senate committee on revenue and taxation today voted unanimously to kill a bill which would have extended municipal taxing powers. No attempt was made by the Senate to override the committee's action. The measure had been opposed by the legislative committee of the MPTO of Oklahoma. C. B. Akers, chairman of the exhibitors' committee, hailing defeat of the measure, said that he will report on state-wide campaign against the proposal when 50 managers and partners of Griffith Amusement Co. gather here for a two-day meeting tomorrow.

See New Stay Plea Set for Filing Today

5 Defendants Reported Working on Document

Application by some or all of the five theatre owning defendants for a U. S. Supreme Court stay of part of the industry anti-trust suit decree, is expected to be ready for filing today, it was indicated here yesterday by a spokesman for company counsel, who have held two prolonged meetings this week.

Although official comment on the stay question continues to be that "no decision has been reached," the attorneys are understood to have been working on a request to the high tribunal, with the New York Federal

(*Continued on page 6*)

'Big 5' May Oppose ATA Appeal Plea

Several major company defendants and the Department of Justice are expected to ask the U. S. Supreme Court for dismissal of the appeal of American Theatres Association, Confederacy of Southern Associations and Southern California Theatre Owners Association from denial of their application to intervene in the New York anti-trust suit.

If the high court dismissed the ATA

(*Continued on page 6*)

Urges Continuance Of Building Bans

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Frank Creedon, Federal housing expediter, today told the House Banking and Currency Committee that he does not recommend the removal of building controls in June.

Two of his assistants have agreed that the commercial construction limitations should be removed. Creedon said, however, that there are too many homes needed and materials are still short of demand.

In This Issue

"Stallion Road," "The Guilty" and "Rainbow Over the Rockies" are reviewed on page 8.

Key city grosses begin on page 7.

Personal Mention

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, and EDWARD L. HYMAN, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., left here for Chicago yesterday.

•

ROBERT STEVENSON, United Artists director, is due here tomorrow from the Coast. He will sail for London on the *Queen Elizabeth* on Saturday.

•

RUPPERT ALLEN, assistant foreign representative of the Motion Picture Association, is en route to Paris from New York on the *SS America*.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern-Canadian sales manager, has returned to New York from a trip through the South.

•

ROBERT WEITMAN, managing director of the New York Paramount, has returned here from a trip to Arizona and the Coast.

•

JOSEPH SIRITZKY, president of Siritzky International, is en route to France from New York.

•

LOUIS LOBER, M-G-M European representative, has left New York for France.

•

HARRY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram's Eastern exploitation representative, is in Miami.

•

M. A. SCHLESINGER, head of International Variety and Theatrical Agency, is in Chicago.

•

MAURY ORR, Western sales manager for United Artists, has returned here from a Midwestern trip.

•

R. RAMOS COBIAN, Puerto Rico circuit operator, has returned there from New York by plane.

Skouras, Silverstone To Visit SA Branches

Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th-Fox, and Murray Silverstone, president of 20th-International, will address branch conferences and meet with exhibitors and circuit heads in each territory they visit during their tour of Latin-American branches, which they began yesterday.

Skouras and Silverstone, accompanied by their wives, left here by air and expect to return late in April.

'U' Sues for Alleged Fraudulent Returns

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—Universal has filed suit here in U. S. District Court against Gordon C. Ogden, operator of the Ogden and Chimes theatres in Baton Rouge, alleging fraudulent returns on percentage pictures.

Chaffe, McCall, Bruns, Toler and Phillips of New Orleans are attorneys for the plaintiff.

35 Theatres Being Built in Kentucky

Louisville, March 18.—Between 35 and 40 new theatres are under construction in this state, and others are planned. *The Architectural Forum* and the U. S. Department of Commerce both predict that the days of the shortage of materials are ending rapidly. Gypsum products and hardwood flooring are the principal bottlenecks at present. Gypsum products are ready for delivery but transportation is short, there being a shortage of box-cars to haul it out of producing areas.

Convention Plan Due On Coyne's Return

Decision on a date and place for the American Theatres Association's annual convention is expected to be made promptly following the return here tonight of Robert W. Coyne, ATA executive director, and Ned Shugrue, publicity director, both of whom left New York for Washington yesterday afternoon. Previously, it had been announced that the convention would be held either in Washington or Chicago between April 19 and May 1.

The final selection will be made in conferences between ATA home office executives and S. H. Fabian, president of the association, who returned here yesterday from Florida.

Chaplin, Roosevelt Linked in Film Plan

Charles Chaplin, Elliott Roosevelt and Miles M. Sherover, who was named last October by the Czechoslovakian government as "exclusive agent" for the purchase of American films for the Czech government, yesterday were described as partners in a proposed deal to import Soviet films for sale and exhibition here. This disclosure was made in the course of a separation suit in New York Supreme Court by Sherover's wife.

RKO-Radio Sets Up '47 Publicity Plans

RKO-Radio's advertising campaigns for the entire calendar year have been set, including a build-up for "Tycoon," its Christmas release, S. Barret McCormick, advertising-publicity director, announces here.

Advertising public emphasis will be on national magazine color campaigns, including the use of newspaper comic sections.

Will Assist Boasberg

Carl Peppercorn has been named assistant to Charles Boasberg, recently appointed a division sales manager at RKO Radio. Peppercorn, who has been with the company in various sales capacities for 20 years, was most recently sales manager at RKO-Radio's New York Exchange.

FWC Will Adopt 500 Green War Orphans

HOLLYWOOD, March 18.—Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, pledged that circuit to adopt 500 Greek war orphans at the close of a Greek Orphans Fund luncheon, held at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, yesterday. The luncheon was addressed by Ned Depinet, national drive co-chairman, and local co-chairmen Robert Poole, Paul Williams and others.

On the basis of Skouras' pledge, indications are that Southern California exhibitors and distributors, originally asked to adopt a total of 648 Greek orphans, will treble their quota.

Schwartz Holds Meet to Plan Greek Drive Fund

Sol A. Schwartz of RKO Theatres, home office chairman of the Industry's appeal for the war orphans of Greece, held a luncheon-meeting here yesterday at the St. Moritz, to formulate plans for home office collections.

Among those attending were: Eugene Picker, Loew's; Pat Scollard, Paramount; Al O'Keefe, Universal; Leon Bamberger, RKO Radio; Jack Lang, 20th Century-Fox; Sam Shain, 20th Century-Fox; Mike Dolid, Warner Brothers; Robert Goldfarb, United Artists; Max Seligman, Columbia; Jerry Pickman, Eagle-Lion; Peter Friedhoff, Monogram; Robert Coyne, American Theatres Association.

Greek Drive Luncheon

The industry's appeal for war orphans of Greece will be the subject of a luncheon-meeting called yesterday for next Monday, at the Hotel Astor, here.

Albany Zone Launches Drive

ALBANY, N. Y., March 18.—Managers and salesmen of theatres and film companies here met yesterday at the 20th Century-Fox exchange to organize the Albany zone drive in behalf of Greek orphans. An endeavor will be made to have each theatre agree to adopt an orphan. C. J. Latta, Warners New York State manager, is local chairman; his assistants include: Louis Schine, Neil Hellman and Edward Ruff.

Talent Aided 717 Events Last Year

WASHINGTON, March 18.—A total of 659 Hollywood artists contributed their services for 1,784 appearances in 717 patriotic and charitable events during 1946 through the Hollywood Coordinating Committee, Motion Picture Association headquarters reported here today.

Davis Remains in Post

ATLANTA, March 18.—Jeff Davis, United Artists branch manager at New Orleans, has been obliged because of ill health to decline appointment to the local branch succeeding Henry Krumm, who resigned to become Southern division manager for the Selznick Releasing Organization. Davis will remain in the New Orleans post and, meanwhile, no appointment filling the local vacancy has been made.

Newsreel Parade

JACK L. WARNER being cited by the Army at March Field ceremonies on the Coast is spotlighted by all current newsreels. Also featured are Academy Award highlights, the "Big Four" meeting in Moscow, Adm. Byrd's South Pole expedition, reports on conditions in England and Germany, and a variety of sports and miscellaneous items. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 58—"Big Four" Parley in Moscow. Floods in England. Salvaging sheep. Byrd South Pole expedition. Truman on vacation. Jack Warner honored by Army. Royal family on South Africa tour. Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood. Sports: rowing, women wrestlers.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 256—"Big Four" in Moscow. Report from "Little America." Royal tour of South Africa. Army honors Jack Warner. Sports: hurling champs, women wrestlers in Boston.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 59—Basketball: West Virginia University vs. Bradley Uinversity in 10th annual invitation tournament. Headline people: Lewis W. Douglas, Jack L. Warner, Olivia de Havilland, golfers Ben Hogan and Mike Phipps. Royal Family continues African tour. Meeting in Moscow.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 61—Byrd expedition at South Pole. Jack Warner receives Army merit award. Hunger, cold plague Germany. Academy Awards ceremony. "Big Four" in Moscow.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 22—Four-power conference held in Moscow. New York salutes Irish on St. Patrick's Day. King and Queen in South Africa. Soviet envoy recalled to Moscow. Jack L. Warner receives Army medal of merit. Sports: hurling club holds Nova Scotia competition. Table-tennis matches in Paris. Lady wrestlers mix it up in Boston.

B'nai B'rith to Honor Gene Buck at Astor

Gene Buck, former president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, will be honored by New York's Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith in a salute at the Hotel Astor next Tuesday evening, Jack H. Levin, president of the Lodge, announces. Composer Oscar Hammerstein II will present Cinema's "Honor Scroll" to Buck.

Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures, will induct his son, Burt, and a group of others into the Lodge on Tuesday evening.

Livingston Joins 'U'

Jeff Livingston, formerly with the J. Arthur Rank Organization, has joined the Universal home office publicity staff for assignments on syndicates and news-wires, replacing Ralph Ober, who has joined "U's" exploitation staff, in Dallas, Maurice A. Bergman, "U's" Eastern advertising-publicity director, disclosed here yesterday. David Susskind of the publicity staff, with special assignments on New York newspapers, has resigned to join Century Artists.

'Idiot' Due Soon

European Copyrights and Distribution plans release in this country of Sacha Gordino's French production of Dostoievsky's "The Idiot."

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M·G·M's "IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN"

Screen Play by Isobel Lennart • Based on an Original Story by John McGowan • Directed by RICHARD WHORF • Produced by JACK CUMMINGS An M-G-M Picture

IT'S HEAVEN FOR THE FANS!

(And they're packing Broadway's Capitol Theatre!)

Leo's got a new sweetie now! "It Happened In Brooklyn" is
Another big M-G-M Musical in the "Anchors Aweigh" manner!
Listen to those packed houses roar at the Capitol, N. Y.
"It Happened In Brooklyn" is the Happiest Musical that ever happened!
Happy stars for the fan millions! Happy songs for a singing nation!
Happiness is an M-G-M habit: "The Yearling" is busting
Chicago records—biggest M-G-M biz in State-Lake history!
"Sea of Grass" Music Hall Masterpiece—plus "Till The Clouds Roll By"
Plus "Secret Heart." And "High Barbaree" coming soon!
Happy thought: An M-G-M smile reaches from Y-ear to Y-ear!

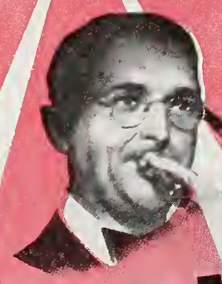
NOW, while circuits like WARNERS! WOMETCO! M. A. SHEA! KINCEY! LUCAS & JENKINS! COMERFORD! BOYD! CHAMBERLAIN! MANOS! CO-OPERATIVE! are gleefully grabbing the Dorsey Bros. starrer!

NOW, while there's great business, repeat business in READING, PHILADELPHIA, ALTOONA, WILLIAMSPORT, LANCASTER, PITTSBURGH.

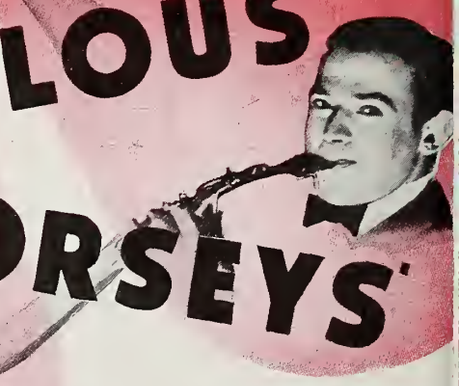
NOW, while the word's out about the fabulous 45-city day-and-date PREMIERE of

Chas.
presentation
TOMM
JIMMY DORSE
JANET BLAI
IN

GUEST STARS
Charlie Barnet
Henry Busse
Helen O'Connell
Bob Eberly
Ray Bauduc
Mike Pingatore
Ziggy Elman
Art Tatum
Stuart Foster
Tommy Dorsey's Orchestra
Jimmy Dorsey's Orchestra



'THE FABULOUS DORSEYS'



with
PAUL WHITEMAN
and William Lundigan
Sara Allgood · Arthur Shields
Associate Producer JOHN W. ROGERS
Original Screen Play by Richard English, Art Arthur, Curtis Kenyon
Produced by Charles R. Rogers
Directed by Alfred E. Green

ers
RSEY

ow everybody wants to get into the act!

NOW, while it's doing that fabulous business, get it from **UA!**

'Years' Reacts Big To Award; Most NY 1st Runs Rallying

Winning of the Academy Award has served "The Best Years of Our Lives" with additional business at the Astor Theatre, here, bringing an impressively solid $23,500 between Friday and Sunday, and promising a handsome $47,000 for its 17th week. The picture is expected to remain at that house at least until Labor Day.

New York first-runs generally enjoyed a rebound of very healthy business, with a sudden turn of good weather principally responsible.

Among newcomers, "It Happened in Brooklyn," at the Capitol, shone brightest, with a very strong $90,000 indicated for the first week; Sammy Kay and his orchestra are on stage. A smart $30,000 is envisioned for "The Red House," at the Globe, where an initial weekend business brought in $17,500.

"Boomerang," at the Roxy, continued to demonstrate plenty of pulling power in its second week, which will bring in a mighty $105,000; Ed Sullivan and Katherine Dunham head the stage bill. At the Music Hall, "Sea of Grass" and a stage show, which drew $68,500 between Thursday and Sunday, is in line for a satisfactory $105,000 for its third and final week; "The Late George Apley" and an Easter stage presentation will bow in tomorrow at the Hall.

"Pursued" and Louis Prima's orchestra at the Strand, sparked by an excellent $35,000 over the weekend, is expected to draw a vigorous $62,000 for its second week. At the Hollywood, "Nora Prentiss" is expected to bring in a fair $16,000 for a fourth week; Friday through Sunday brought a better-than-fair $11,000. "Sinbad the Sailor" concluded an eight-week run at the Palace yesterday; weekend business totalled $11,600, and a sprightly $17,500 was rung up during the week. "The Locket" will take over there today. "Angel and the Badman" will ring up about $15,000 in a third week at the Gotham, and is viewed to be good for at least a five-week run; the weekend brought in $7,500.

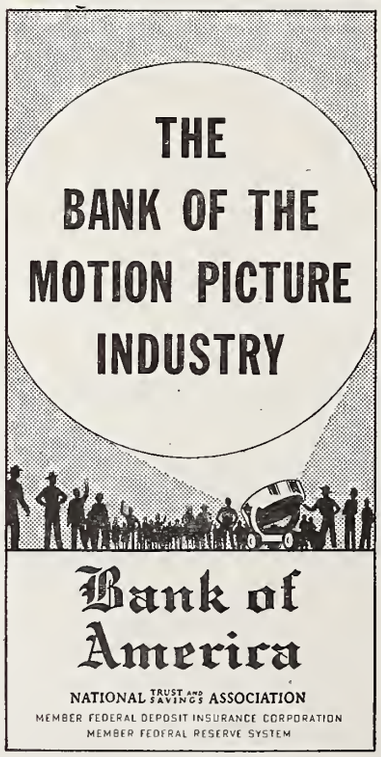
At the Paramount, "Suddenly It's Spring" is expected to chalk up a pretty good $61,000 for a third and final week, along with Johnny Long's orchestra on stage; "My Favorite Brunette" and Jimmy Dorsey's orchestra will move in today. "Blaze of Noon," at the Rivoli, is headed for a fair $25,000 in a second week; "The Farmer's Daughter" will have its world premiere at that house on March 25.

A good $38,000 is anticipated for "Stairway to Heaven" at the Winter Garden where it is in its initial week, having moved over from 12 weeks at the Park which has now a straight, popular-price basis for "The Years Between," in its second week and with a moderate $10,000 in view.

At the Victoria, $16,500 for "The Thief of Bagdad," a reissue, in its second week, is regarded worthy of further holdover. "Song of Scheherazade" is good for $20,000 in a third and final week at the Criterion where "The Show-Off" will take over today. An average $7,000 is seen for "Dangerous Millions" at the Rialto, in a one-week stand; "The Devil Thumbs a Ride" will debut there on Friday. "Henry V" continues profitable at the John Golden, where the 29th week's gross hit $9,300; it is expected to run there through the summer.

'Adventuress' to Victoria

Eagle-Lion's "The Adventuress" will open April 5 at the Victoria Theatre, here, following "The Thief of Bagdad," E-L announced yesterday.



Local 702 'Lab' Talks Continue Unresolved

Contract negotiations between 18 Eastern film laboratories and Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians, Local No. 702, IATSE, will be held here again today. Since the resumption of talks after the local voted to halt work beginning March 11, no progress has been made, according to John J. Francavilla, president of the local, but he emphasized that the issue "will be resolved by the end of this week, one way or the other."

E-L Schedule

(*Continued from page* 1)

season four will be made in Cinecolor, he reported. While here during the next two weeks Foy will confer with A. W. Schwalberg, E-L vice-president and general sales manager; Max E. Youngstein, advertising-publicity director, and Pathe Industries executives, for the purpose of laying out next season's schedule.

Asserting that producers are in a better position to determine the cinematic likes and dislikes of the public than are national poll organizations, Foy said he will make exhibitor tours four times a year into various sections of the country with a view toward gathering information that will establish the nature of much of the company's new product.

Questioned on whether PRC and Eagle-Lion (both are Pathe Industries affiliates) will merge, Foy said such a merger will not take place, at least in the foreseeable future.

Competitive Bidding

(*Continued from page* 1)

in various parts of the country by RKO Radio, M-G-M and Paramount, while 20th Century-Fox has been carrying on "competitive negotiations." Paramount has appealed from the bidding clause in the decree, although the other theatre-owning defendants in the suit have not.

Bidding for RKO Pictures Started in Plainfield, N. J.

Plainfield, N. J. has entered the competitive bidding field for RKO Radio product. This was revealed here yesterday by James Watson, booker-buyer for the Walter Reade Circuit, who said he had responded to RKO's bidding form on behalf of Reade's Strand, Oxford and Paramount theatres in Plainfield.

Apparently resulting from a request by Andora Amusement Corp., operator of the Liberty Theatre, bidding in the New Jersey locality is the first reported in that area, and also the first engaged in by the circuit.

Names in the News

(*Continued from page* 1)

Los Angeles. George Lefko, formerly of Warner's sales staff, succeeds Milner as PRC branch manager in Los Angeles.

E. T. Dickinson Gets Post With 'U's' United World

Edward T. Dickinson, Jr., has been named vice-president in charge of the development and distribution of 16mm. films for United World, subsidiary of Universal, by Matthew Fox, chairman of the UW board. He was last a member of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe, representing the U. S.

George Ornstein Becomes Assistant to Grad Sears

George H. Ornstein, a member of United Artists' foreign department for the past year, has been named assistant to Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of UA distribution.

Johnston Warns

(*Continued from page* 1)

American social customs when distributed abroad and invite autocratic censorship, local or national, in this country.

Pointing out that the Production Code allows full scope for the presentation of such scenes when they are directly relevant to the story, such as in "The Lost Weekend," Johnston said that the common tendency to show social drinking simply as a component stage business leads, unintentionally but effectually, to the impression that this is a nation of drinkers.

Johnston's talks follow, in general, the pattern of those made several months ago by Production Code Administrator Joseph I. Breen, to whom Johnston paid warm tribute. Johnston visited M-G-M and 20th Century-Fox today. He will address principal personnel at Warner, Universal-International and Republic tomorrow.

At Johnston's request, Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, has called a meeting on Thursday of that organization's 24 producer members to hear Johnston speak on "The Importance of improving the Moral Tone of Motion Pictures" and to engage in a round-table discussion.

New Stay Plea

(*Continued from page* 1)

District Court's abolition of the industry arbitration system said to be the chief clause which the companies desire to keep from taking effect until after a final ruling of their appeal on that issue.

Considered less likely to grow out of this week's meetings is an application for a stay of competitive bidding. While Paramount has appealed from the decrees' bidding clause, M-G-M, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and Warners have not. However, both appeals and stay applications with regard to the new selling method are pending on behalf of each of the three non-theatre-owning defendants, Universal, Columbia and United Artists.

Hearing on all stay applications, to be held by Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed, probably will be postponed from March 25 to March 28, according to Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal special counsel, who yesterday received word from Robert L. Wright of the Department of Justice that the time in which a stay could be granted has been extended to April 1.

Reports that the theatre-owning defendants might oppose a stay of bidding were termed "not the correct position" by counsel for one of them yesterday.

'Big 5' May Oppose

(*Continued from page* 1)

appeal, it would bar Thurman Arnold, ATA attorney, from argument on the issues in the New York decree to which ATA has taken exception. The court probably will rule on the ATA appeal move when it hears petitions for stays of the New York decree filed by Columbia, United Artists and Universal. The hearing is tentatively set for March 25 but may be delayed several days.

Some major defendants are known to have considered asking for dismissal of the ATA appeal petition and the Department of Justice has expressed opposition to the ATA action.

Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

Six new offerings at first-run theatres, only "Sinbad the Sailor" was well received in a week of unusually warm weather which sent thousands swarming to the beaches. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 19:

BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (U-I) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. Average: $7,100)
THE MAGIC BOW (U-I)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $11,500)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,-300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $18,200)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $18,-100)
BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (U-I) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,800)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $19,000)
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.00-$1.50) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $9,100)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FOX BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 12th week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—FOX WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,-500. (Average: $13,300)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—GUILD (965) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $5,900)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $19,800)
SMASH-UP (U-I)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $7,200)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $28,-600)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) 50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,-500. (Average: $22,600)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,-265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,500)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,700)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $14,-200)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,400)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,700)
BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (UI) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $18,800)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 8th week. Gross: $28,-600. (Average: $21,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,800)
EASY COME, EASY GO (Para.) and LADIES' MAN (Para.) — PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $26,600)
EASY COME, EASY GO (Para.) and LADIES' MAN (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $16,100)
SMASH-UP (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $9,600)
SMASH-UP (U-I)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $6,100)
SMASH-UP (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $15,800)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,-716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $13,200)
DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) ($1.00-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 11th week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $10,000)
PURSUED (WB)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $18,200)
PURSUED (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $15,500)
PURSUED (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $14,900)

CHICAGO

Good weather and St. Patrick's Day combined to help Loop grosses. Of the new entries, "My Favorite Brunette" is doing the biggest business. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 19-20:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 12th week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.) — CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) On stage: Danny O'Neill. Gross: $65,000. (Average: $62,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M) — GARRICK (1,000) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GRAND (1,150) (95c) 5th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,000)
APACHE ROSE (Rep.) — ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c) On stage: "Sugar Chile" Robinson. Gross: $58,000. (Average: $48,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) and SWEETHEART OF SIGMA CHI (Mono.)—PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c) Gross: $19,000. (Average: $24,000)
THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PRC reissue) and KIT CARSON (PRC reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c) Gross: $11,000. (Average: $11,000)
PURSUED (WB) — ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) Gross $24,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE YEARLING (M - G - M) — STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c) 4th week. Gross: $33,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) — UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $27,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio) — WOODS (1,200) (95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 13th week. Gross: $36,000. (Average: $28,000)

PHILADELPHIA

"The Jolson Story" and "The Locket" are doing outstanding business in a week of otherwise fair grosses. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18-20:

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $13,-800)
NORA PRENTISS (WB) ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,600)
THAT WAY WITH WOMEN (WB) BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $21,900. (Average: $21,000)
SWELL GUY (U-I) EARLE (3,000) (60c-70c-80c-90c-99c) 6 days, with vaudeville starring Tommy Tucker. Gross: $21,300. (Average, for 7 days: $31,700)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $25,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 5th week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $24,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $9,500)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,200)
PURSUED (WB)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $19,700. (Average: $29,500)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $38,200. (Average: $27,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days. Gross: $15,900. (Average: $12,700)

BUFFALO

The Buffalo Theatre, with "Ladies' Man" on the screen and a big stage show, is doing sky-high business, while grosses at other houses hover around the average mark. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 22:

LADIES' MAN (Para.)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Hal McIntyre and orchestra on stage in revue featuring Frankie Lester, John Turnbull, Nancy Reed, Gil Lamb, George Prentice and Eve Matthews. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $19,-000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) and DECOY (Monc.) — HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.) and CIGARETTE GIRL (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,200. (Average: $15,000)
THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $6,000)
THE SHANGHAI GESTURE (Crown) and DICK TRACY vs. CUEBALL (RKO Radio) TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $16,000)

KANSAS CITY

Influenza and bad colds are factors in reduced attendance here. Although there has been snow, the temperature generally has been moderate. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18-20:

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,000)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $1,400. (Average: $1,750)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—MIDLAND (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,000)
SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio) and DANGEROUS MONEY (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000)
SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.) and BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (2,-000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $4,800. (Average: $6,000)

OMAHA

Three of the four first-runs are doing above-average business. The weather has been milder, with little sunshine and considerable snow and rain. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 20-21:

BEDELIA (PRC) and SING WHILE YOU DANCE (Col.)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $8,900. (Average: $8,500)
WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox) and DANGEROUS MILLIONS (20th - Fox) ORPHEUM (3,000) (50c-65c) 7 days.

(*Continued on following page*)

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Key City Grosses

(Continued from preceding page)

Gross: $9,900. (Average: $9,300)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,900. (Average: $10,600)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and SINGING IN THE CORN (Col.) RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $6,600)

MINNEAPOLIS

Although most films did below-average business, "The Best Years of Our Lives," playing to advanced admission prices at the RKO Pan, grossed almost four times the regular-price average for the house. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 20:

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,300)
SAN QUENTIN (RKO Radio)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $3,400)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on moveover from Century. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $5,600)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $14,500)
SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING (Para.)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—RKO PAN (1,500) (90c-$1.50) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $8,500)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business generally is quiet, hurt somewhat by a mild influenza epidemic, but "The Crime Doctor's Manhunt," with a stage show at the Circle, is well above average. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18-19:

CRIME DOCTOR'S MANHUNT (Col.)—CIRCLE (2,800) (48c-72c) 7 days, with Bob Crosby orchestra on stage. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $18,500)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox) and THE PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $15,200)
SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,500)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M) and THE MIGHTY McGURK (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,800)
HUMORESQUE (WB)—LYRIC (1,600) 40c-60c) 7 days on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,700)

CINCINNATI

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is the high spot in the current line-up in its initial week at the RKO Capitol at advanced prices, while other product is turning in satisfactory figures at most of the houses. Weather was cold. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 18-21:

BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-65c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Stage: King Cole Trio, Sue Ryan, Johnny Morgan. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—RKO CAPITOL (2,600) (90c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.50) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $10,000)
VALLEY OF FEAR (Mono.) and BORN TO SPEED (PRC)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,700. (Average: $1,600)
VALLEY OF WANTED MEN (Popular) and SUICIDE SQUAD (Popular)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,100. (Average: $1,100)
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $7,500)
THE RAIDER (English) and DOWN MISSOURI WAY (PRC)—RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000)
JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $15,000)
NORA PRENTISS (WB)—RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Palace. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000)

ATLANTA

Moderate weather following the recent cold wave has stimulated attendance. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 19:

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—FOX (4,661) (30c-50c) Gross $14,000. (Average: $13,000)
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (30c-50c) Gross: $8,400. (Average: $8,200)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—ROXY (2,446) (30c-50c) (30c-50c) 2nd week on moveover from Fox. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,600)
THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI (U-A)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,554) (30c-50c) Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)
NO TIME FOR COMEDY (WB reissue) and THE MISSING LADY (Mono.)—CAPITOL (2,446) (30c-44c) Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,200)

DENVER

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is packing the Aladdin repeatedly and appears set for a long run. Business at other houses is generally good. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 19:

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—ALADDIN (1,400) (90c-$1.80) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $4,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) and CARAVAN TRAIL (PRC)—BROADWAY (1,500) (35c-74c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,500)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, 2nd week, day-date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,000)
THE BEGINNING OR THE EN[illegible]-G-M) and FREDDIE STEPS OU[illegible] (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (2,000) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,500)
SWELL GUY (U-I) and BRINGING UP FATHER (Mono.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $8,000)
RAMROD (UA) and BETTY CO-ED (Col.)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after week each at Denver, Esquire, Webber, Aladdin. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $3,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

The early spring continues sunny. All first-run theatres are doing average business or above. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 20:

JESSE JAMES (20th-Fox reissue) and THE RETURN OF FRANK JAMES (20th-Fox reissue)—CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $7,900. (Average: $7,800)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $13,600)
BOSTON BLACKIE AND THE LAW (Col.) and PILGRIM LADY (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,500) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, with vaudeville. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,700)
BOOM TOWN (M-G-M reissue)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $3,600. (Average: $3,600)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,800)
LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M)—UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $5,900)
NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—UTAH 1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,300)

Reviews

"Stallion Road"

(Warner Brothers)

FILMS about horses and horse-breeding come and go—and make plenty of money en route—and now Warners puts forth a strong bid for equine box-office honors. However, the commercial success which appears certain for "Stallion Road" is likely to rest not in its being *another* horse picture, but rather in its being a horse picture that gives considerable attention to affairs of the human heart. Ronald Reagan, Alexis Smith and Zachary Scott participate in a smouldering love triangle that runs neck-and-neck with a fascinating representation of the horse-raising business in beauteous Southern California.

The screenplay, bristling with sharp, sophisticated repartee, was fashioned by Stephen Longstreet from his own novel. Unfolded is the story of Scott, in the role of a celebrated author, who visits the ranch of his breeder-veterinary friend, Regan. Both fall hard for Miss Smith, another horse ranch owner. Reagan, much sought after by the young wife of a local banker, is the winner of Miss Smith's love and Scott decides to bow out gracefully. However, when a misunderstanding develops between the lady and Reagan (her prize mount dies when the veterinary, engaged in stamping out an animal disease epidemic on the banker's ranch, fails to answer her call for aid), Scott moves in, prepared to marry her. The film's climax comes when Reagan himself nearly dies from the animal disease and Miss Smith, still in love with him, helps to nurse him back to health. Scott, the ultimate loser, returns East to write a book about it all.

Under the able direction of James V. Kern, all performances are appropriately restrained. Peggy Knudson, Patti Brady who appears as a precocious youngster, Harry Davenport, Angela Greene (playing an uninhibited miss with designs on Scott), Frank Puglia and others are in support. Arthur Edeson's camera work is tops. This polished Alex Gottlieb production clearly commands playing time.

Running time, 97 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April 12.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"The Guilty"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 18

IN his initial production for Monogram release, Jack Wrather stresses the sordid side of murder. There is nothing heroic or exciting about the crime involved, and the characters themselves are a shoddy lot. The effect of the picture as a whole is one of uncompromising realism. It has almost a documentary flavor.

The persons of the drama—played by Don Castle, Wally Cassell and Bonita Granville—are the kind of people who might live anywhere, any time. Miss Granville plays a dual role: twins, cursed with a hysterical mother. Castle portrays a cynical young man with a fondness for "boiler-makers," and Cassell is his room-mate, a psychoneurotic war veteran. Early in Robert Presnell's screenplay one of the twins is murdered, and thereafter the plot revolves around the solution of the crime. The latter is a neat and plausible device which it would be unfair to reveal here. Suffice it to say that in the telling the story holds interest all the way, although no sympathy is aroused for any of its participants. John Reinhardt's direction makes ingenious use of a number of novel techniques which add substantially to the absorbing quality of the film itself.

Running time, 71 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 1.

THALIA BELL

"Rainbow Over the Rockies"

(Monogram)

LATEST of the Jimmy Wakely series comes right off the assembly line with little effort to distinguish it. A few interesting sagebrush songs and just a little action are found in the yarn about Wakely's crew en route to market with their cattle, making progress until a wire-enclosed ranch holds them up. Motivation for the feud that develops is quite vague.

Lee ('Lasses') White, Jean Carlin, Jack Baxley, Iris Clive and Jonathon Black are the principal participants in Oliver Drake's production. Drake also directed and did the original, which was adapted by Elmer Clifton.

Running time, 54 minutes. General audience classification.

GENE ARNEEL

Sweden Halts Import Of American Films

The Swedish board of trade will no longer grant import licenses for Hollywood films as long as a recently-established government decision to curtail imports is in force, according to press dispatches reaching here yesterday from Stockholm. Following a warning by the Swedish national bank that its stock of gold and foreign currencies are dangerously low, the government decided to curtail imports.

It was stated, however, that since there are ample stocks of American films in Sweden, it is not likely that they will disappear from film houses there for some time.

Indecent Ad Bill

(Continued from page 1)

ment, which struck out the entire section on licensing pictures and authorizing revocation of a permit when "any" advertising on a film was obscene, was drafted so that Gov. Dewey would not have to act on the controversial measure, which has recently been attacked as dangerous to freedom of the press. No objections were raised during the month the bill was before the legislature.

Both houses of the legislature passed the bill just a month ago, with only one negative vote, but since then it has remained on the Assembly desk with the explanation that printing difficulties held up the engrossing copy necessary before the measure could be forwarded to the Governor.

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Closed Shops In Industry Escape Bans

Managements Prefer to Preserve Labor Peace

Although legislation banning closed union shops appears to be making considerable headway in a number of states this year, it is unlikely that such legislation will alter closed shop maintenance within the motion picture industry in states where the ban is being established, according to industry labor spokesmen here.

This contention is based on the fact, they say, that projectionists, exchange workers, theatre service employes and other industry personnel in states that have long since "outlawed" the closed shop have not been deprived of that privilege and continue to maintain closed shops with management's "blessings." Theatre owners, exchange managers, and other industry "bosses,"

(*Continued on page* 4)

UA Gets Broadway Theatre on Lease

United Artists has concluded negotiations for leasing the 1,600-seat Shubert's Broadway Theatre at Broadway and 53rd Street as a first-run showcase and roadshow house for its product.

The lease is for 18 months, starting April 1, immediately following the close of the stage musical, "Beggar's Holiday," current at the theatre. The lease is understood to carry extension options and requires the approval of the UA board, which is expected.

Negotiations between UA and Selz-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Good Pictures Still Gross High: Yates

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Grosses are off between 12 and 15 per cent in this country and between 20 and 25 per cent in England, according to Republic president Herbert J. Yates, who was host to the press at lunch today. Despite the slump in receipts, Yates declared that outstanding pictures are still grossing as much as in wartime.

The 16mm. field offers all producers

(*Continued on page* 6)

US Set to Oppose Stay Petitions on Economic Grounds

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Department of Justice, understood to be planning opposition to applications for stays in the industry anti-trust decree, is expected to contend that placing the New York Federal District Court's judgment in effect promptly will not be a "serious economic burden" to the defendant companies.

Hearing on the stay applications will be held, probably on March 28, in a closed chamber session before Justice Stanley F. Reed. Petitions from Universal, Columbia and United Artists already are pending, seeking principally to have the start of competitive bidding postponed from July 1 until after the high tribunal rules on the appeals in the case. Also, filing

(*Continued on page* 6)

Bids Two U-I Films Away from Warners

Universal-International has closed its second deal on a competitive bidding basis, having licensed "The Egg and I" and "Song of Scheherazade" first-run to the Home Theatre, Oklahoma City, in competition with War-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Charges Companies Delay Bid Answers

Interboro Circuit has thus far met refusal or delay by some distributors in its attempt to enter competitive bids for its Elmwood Theatre against Brandt's Drake in Rego Park, L. I., a spokesman for the circuit revealed here yesterday. He said that the circuit's attorneys are now consulting with distributor lawyers to determine when bidding under the Federal court decree will be instituted.

***Motion Picture Daily* said yesterday that distributors may not start bidding negotiations in New York before the July 1 court deadline.**

Feature Promoting Hollywood Weighed

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Representatives of producers, the Screen Writers Guild, Directors Guild and Screen Actors Guild last night weighed a project for jointly producing a feature, or a series of shorts, which would show the serious, constructive activities of the Hollywood phase of the film industry's operations. Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston

(*Continued on page* 6)

5 New State Censor Laws Now in Effect

MPA's Bryson Reports To Delaware Meeting

MILFORD, Del., March 19.—Five of seven state legislatures which started sessions in January and have already adjourned have passed film censorship bills, reported Jack Bryson of the Motion Picture Association's Washington office, at a meeting here of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The five states are: North and South Dakota, Indiana, West Virginia and Montana. Bryson asserted that industry self-censorship was superior to political censorship.

The Delaware legislature is now considering a censorship bill, which, along with a proposed Wilmington admissions tax, was discussed by the theatremen. A. Joseph DeFiore,

(*Continued on page* 6)

Gillham Named SRO Eastern Ad Head

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Robert M. Gillham, former advertising-publicity director of Paramount and until this week associated with the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency, has joined the Selznick Releasing Organization in charge of Eastern and foreign advertising-publicity. His headquarters will be in New York.

Robert M. Gilham

Gillham reported to SRO today and is attending the company's current sales meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. He will

(*Continued on page* 6)

Fabian Planning to Retire As President of the ATA

S. H. Fabian, first president of the American Theatres Association, intends to retire from that office following the ATA annual convention next month, he said here yesterday following his return from a vacation in Florida. Although Fabian did not elaborate on the fact that he would not be a candidate and would seek to avoid being drafted for a second term, if that situation should arise, it was indicated by other spokesmen for the organization that the ATA leadership has made very heavy demands on the circuit president's time. This has been especially true with regard to committee work in cooperation with other groups.

A slate of nominees for ATA offices will be drawn up here next week, when Ted R. Gamble, chairman of the board, arrives from the Coast for conferences preliminary to the convention, Fabian said, adding that he will

(*Continued on page* 6)

MPA Protests Swedish Film Ban

Gerald Mayer, manager of the international division of the Motion Picture Association, yesterday wired the U. S. State Department in Washington for a clarification of the Swedish board of trade's decision to no longer grant import licenses for Hollywood films.

Additionally, Mayer cabled MPA's Fayette W. Allport in London to investigate the Swedish move, which is said to stem from a government decision to curtail all imports, following a warning by the Swedish National Bank that its stock of gold and foreign currencies are low.

In This Issue

"Backlash," "Tarzan and the Huntress" and "Apache Rose" are reviewed on page 7.

Personal Mention

BEN KALMENSON, Warner Brothers vice-president and general sales manager, left here yesterday for Philadelphia and Washington.

•

EDWARD MOREY, vice-president of Monogram and Allied Artists, will leave here today for Chicago to attend the companies' board meetings on Saturday.

•

ELMER C. RHODEN, head of Fox Midwest, is chairman of the Kansas City Citizens Bond Committee which for several months has been studying local needs and a bond proposal.

•

CHESTER FRIEDMAN, editor of *Manager's Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald,* is in Lexington Hospital here for an appendectomy.

•

CARL LESERMAN, executive vice-president of Benedict Bogeaus Productions, arrived here from the Coast yesterday.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warners' short subjects sales manager, is due to arrive on the Coast from New York today.

•

MRS. SI F. SEADLER, wife of the M-G-M advertising manager, is en route to the Coast where she will be joined by her husband tomorrow.

•

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, National Screen vice-president in charge of sales, has returned here from a vacation at Boca Raton, Fla.

•

O. S. BARNETT, office manager of Monogram Southern Exchanges, Atlanta, has returned to his desk following a week's illness.

•

PAUL BRODER, president of Broder American Releasing Corp., left here for Detroit last night.

•

EDWARD L. WALTON, Republic assistant general sales manager, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

WALTER READE, JR., is expected to return to New York from the Coast on April 1.

•

N. E. SAVINI, of Astor Pictures, Atlanta, has returned there from New York and Washington.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Southern division sales manager for Warner Brothers, is in Dallas.

•

ROY HAINES, Warners' Western division sales manager, has returned here from a Midwestern tour.

MPA Directors Meet

The board of directors of the Motion Picture Association met at its office here yesterday for a general discussion of the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the MPA and its predecessors. No decision was reached on a specific date for the event, to be held in May.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

THERE isn't a busier place in New York than Sam Goldwyn's Eastern headquarters. Roadshow and pre-release runs of "The Best Years of Our Lives" were being set up as part of the routine of distribution. Came last Thursday and the Academy Awards, of which nine in various classifications went to the attraction, including its selection as the best film of the year and Freddie March as the best actor.

Nothing much happened in the next 24 hours. Thereafter, much did. On Saturday grosses began to shoot up. So, too, Sunday's. It became quickly evident the Academy Awards pack considerable wallop and can do the film voted best substantial good under given circumstances.

Chiefly, this was the fact the award came along while "The Best Years" was beginning to gain playdate momentum. It was new and practically unplayed. In the 19-year history of the Awards this has been an infrequent event, although last year Paramount happily faced a somewhat similar situation with "The Lost Weekend."

■

Sol Schwartz, whose business is fathering RKO theatre operations, acknowledges excitement over the initial week at the 1,600 seat Pan, in Minneapolis, where the opening stanza, ending Tuesday, did a whopping $31,471. At Keith's, Washington, where the capacity is 1,500, the gross on the first week, which also closed out Tuesday, was $41,890. Last Saturday, at the Astor, New York, brought in $8,745, making it the biggest Saturday in the preceding six weeks of the run, then 17 weeks old. First week at the Esquire, Boston — 941 seats — recorded $12,216. But in the 11th, the take was $11,317.

There are others, all on about the same level, which leads to the conclusion on the Goldwyn premises that business jumped between 30 and 35 per cent since the Academy vote was revealed.

■

"The Best Years" cost about $3,000,000 to produce. If it stays at the Astor here in New York until Labor Day and maintains its present speed, it is possible the producer's end will be close to $1,000,000. If the Woods, Chicago, date goes to 26 weeks and holds its pace, Goldwyn's share will pile on approximately another $700,000, thereby returning about 57 per cent of the negative cost, which includes prints by the way, from two engagements. Amazing if it does acording to currently enthusiastic blueprint—and it may.

It couldn't happen to a more deserving picture.

■ ■

What we would have determined as the Acadamy Awards was not what Academy members voted in three categories out of six. At 50 per cent correct, it's obvious we didn't do well. The facts, hard and inescapable:

Best Picture — Our Vote: "The Best Years of Our Lives." Academy's Vote: The same.

Best Performance, Actor— Our Vote: Laurence Olivier for "Henry V." Academy's Vote: Fredric March for "The Best Years."

Best Performance, Actress— Ours: Celia Johnson for "Brief Encounter." Academy's: Olivia De Havilland for "To Each His Own."

Best Performance, Supporting Actor—Ours: Harold Russell for "The Best Years." Academy's: Identical.

Best Performance, Supporting Actress—Ours: Ethel Barrymore for "The Spiral Staircase." Academy's: Anne Baxter in "The Razor's Edge."

Best Achievement in Direction—Ours: William Wyler for "The Best Years." Academy's: Ditto.

■ ■

NOTE IN PASSING: Frank Launder, British director whose latest is "The Adventuress," thinks: "The producer is always better off when he starts with a story which has been conceived in terms of motion picture scenes and sequences without having to translate action and motivation from terms of the original medium [books or stage plays] into films."

In other words, he likes originals.

But is the producer always better off? If this were true, which obviously it is not, there might never have been "Gone with the Wind," "The Green Years," "The Song of Bernadette," "Lost Horizon," "Mrs. Miniver," "Since You Went Away," "Sergeant York," "Cavalcade," "Ben Hur," "The Birth of a Nation," and all manner of greats in between.

■ ■

"Troubles?" observes a national distributor yesterday. "I don't think we've seen anything yet. Wait until we have to get embroiled in clearances!"

Merger Inquiry Unit Set Up by Tom Clark

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Attorney General Tom Clark today established a special Justice Department unit to review all business mergers. "Through our new anti-trust division unit, we hope to prevent by anticipation the creation of any illegal combines which violate the anti-trust laws," he said.

All mergers between corporations must be investigated by the unit, Clark explained. It will be under the Complaints and Small Business Section, operating with the Anti-Trust Division.

Nelson to Talk at UNESCO Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, March 19. — Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, will participate in a national conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Philadelphia, March 27-28, counselling that group on how to facilitate an international exchange of both educational and commercial films.

The agenda of the meeting also includes a discussion of plans for forming a United States film council to work with the UNESCO.

CPA Approves New 'U' Omaha Exchange

OMAHA, March 19.—The Civilian Production Administration has approved a $135,000 exchange building here for Universal, CPA district manager Frank Epperson discloses. It will be located on Davenport Street, on Film Row.

The project is part of Universal's plans to replace most existing 'U' exchanges with new structures nationally.

Lawrence and Woolf Due Here Tomorrow

Jock Lawrence, American representative of the J. Arthur Rank Organization; Robert S. Woolf, general manager for RKO Pathe Films in the United Kingdom, and Col. J. W. Votion, Pathe studio representative in Europe, will arrive here tomorrow on the *SS Queen Elizabeth.* Mlle. Corinne Calvert, French film star, is also aboard.

Film Council Elects Griffith Chairman

Richard Griffith, executive director of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, was elected chairman of the New York Film Council yesterday. Alfred Rosenberg was elected vice chairman; Emily Jones, executive secretary and William Rogers, treasurer.

Franchise Transferred

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Devonshire Films has sold its local franchise to Hollywood Pictures here, operated by Teddy Shull and Irwin Cohen.

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"STALLION ROAD"

WHERE THE WINNERS COME FROM

Warners!

DIRECTED BY
JAMES V. KERN

NOVEL AND SCREEN PLAY BY STEPHEN LONGSTREET

PRODUCED BY
ALEX GOTTLIEB

Production on Coast in New Spurt, to 43

HOLLYWOOD, March 19. — Production activity is still increasing, the shooting index reaching 43, compared with the previous level of 41. Nine new films have been started, seven completed. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Keeper of the Bees," with Gloria Henry, Michael Duane, Jane Darwell, Henry Davenport, Jo Ann Marlowe.

Shooting: "Swing the Western Way," "The Man from Colorado," "Her Husband's Affairs," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman).

Eagle-Lion

Shooting: "The Red Stallion," "Out of the Blue," "Love from a Stranger."

M-G-M

Finished: "Song of the Thin Man."

Shooting: "Good News," "The Hucksters."

Monogram

Finished: "The Law Comes to Gunsight," "Sarge Goes to College."

Started: "Scarheads," with Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Bill Kennedy, Bobby Jordan.

Shooting: "The Gangster" (Allied Artists).

Paramount

Finished: "Albuquerque" (Clarion).

Shooting: "The Big Clock," "Road to Rio."

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Crossfire," "Tycoon," "Indian Summer," "If You Knew Susie," "The Bishop's Wife" (Goldwyn).

Republic

Shooting: "Saddle Pals," "Springtime in the Sierras."

Screen Guild

Started: "Western Barn Dance," (Schwarz) with Frank Tubb, Helen Royce, Frank McGlynn, Carl Hodges; "Killer Dill," (King) with Anne Gwynne, Frank Albertson, Stuart Erwin; "The Hat-Box Mystery" and "The Case of the Baby Sitter," (Screen Art) with Pamela Blake, Tom Neal, Virginia Sale, Allen Jenkins.

Selznick

Shooting: "Portrait of Jennie," "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Forever Amber."

Started: "Kiss of Death," with Victor Mature, Patricia Morison, Bryan Donlevy, Colleen Gray; "Second Chance," (Wurtzel) with Kent Taylor, Louise Currie, Dennis Hoey.

Shooting: "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay," "Captain from Castile."

United Artists

Shooting: "Atlantis" (Nero); "Body and Soul" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Started: "The Lost Love," (Wanger) with Robert Cummings, Susan Hayward, Agnes Moorehead, Joan Loring, Frank Puglia.

Warners

Finished: "The Unfaithful."

Shooting: "Voice of the Turtle," "Two Guys from Texas," "Wallflower," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz)

B. & K., Great States Officials in Meeting

CHICAGO, March 19.—Executives of Balaban and Katz and Great States, Paramount affiliates in this area, held a one-day meeting today at the Blackstone Hotel here, conducted by Leonard Goldenson, Paramount theatre head, and Edward Hyman, Goldenson's assistant. Goldenson and Hyman flew back to New York after the meeting.

At the meeting were: John Balaban, Walter Immerman, Henry Sticklemaier, Dave Sticklemaier, Dave Wallerstein, M. M. Rubens, Harry Lustgarten, Nate Platt, Arthur Goldberg and John Dromey.

Charge Red Suspect On Canada Board

OTTAWA, March 19.—Canada had another Communistic sensation, almost rivalling the Soviet spy revelations, when J. A. Sullivan resigned from important jobs in organized labor because, he claimed, Sovietism had permeated not only Canadian labor activities but had infiltrated the government service throughout the Dominion. In a statement at Ottawa, Sullivan disclosed highlights of the Communists' program in which he introduced the name of Freda Linton, who "became private secretary to John Grierson, head of the National Film Board in Ottawa." Sullivan added: "She was one of the ones charged under the Royal Commission (investigating the Soviet spy system in Canada) but left the country and was never brought to trial."

The U. S. State Department recently refused to grant permission to Grierson to enter the United States to reside.

Foundation Trustees To Study Canada Bid

Extension of the scope of the Motion Picture Foundation to include Canada, understood to be sought by the Canadian Picture Pioneers, will be considered by the foundation's trustees at their annual meeting, tentatively scheduled for May, a spokesman for the organization indicated here yesterday.

Up until a late hour yesterday, the Canadian request had not yet been received by foundation officials here.

American Seating Net

A net income of $121,129 for 1946 has been reported by the American Seating Co., the figure being arrived at after a $800,000 tax carry-back credit. The net was equal to 55 cents a share, compared with the 1945 net of $376,903, or $1.70 per share after a $100,000 tax credit.

NAB to Congress on Intra-Union Fights

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Citing the effects which jurisdictional union strikes have had on Hollywood production, Justin Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, today asked Congress for a "sound national labor policy" which would outlaw these intra-union disputes and would ban secondary boycotts.

In letters to the House and Senate labor committees, Miller warned that jurisdictional disputes would considerably hamper the progress of television, adding that a number of television programs already have had to be cancelled because of them.

He stressed the need for a policy which would make labor contracts enforceable and the parties mutually responsible. Miller branded the secondary boycott as a "flagrantly abusive union practice."

Uphold 'IA' in Taking Over Local's Control

Authority of Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, to take over control of the Affiliated Property Craftsmen's Union, Local No. 44, Hollywood, has been upheld by the California District Court of Appeals, the IATSE has announced here. The action was taken under emergency powers granted by the international group's constitution when the craftsmen's local joined with the Conference of Studio Unions in the jurisdictional strike of March, 1945. A disagreement over the arbitration settling that dispute brought on the current strike.

Attorneys Matthew M. Levy of New York and Michael G. Luddy of California represented "IA" in the case. The Coast firm of Katz, Gallagher and Margolis, represented Local No. 44.

More Houses Leased For 'Henry' Runs

ALBANY, March 19. — J. Arthur Rank's representatives have engaged subsequent-run independent theatres in Troy and Schenectady for engagements of "Henry V." They first did this with the Colonial in Albany, which ran the film for five days, last week. The Lansing, Troy, will show it this week and the Colony, Schenectady, March 25-26. Upstate Theatres arranged the bookings.

Central Casting Has 41% Rise in Activity

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Central Casting Corporation, affiliate of the Motion Picture Association, placed 266,065 extras, who grossed $4,614,154 during 1946, the association reports. This was an increase of more than 41 per cent over 1945.

MPA pointed out that the average extra worked only 40 days and earned $700.

Drive for C. J. Latta

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—A drive to observe C. J. Latta's sixth anniversary as upstate zone manager of Warner Theatres will be held from March 30 to June 28. Managers in the Albany and Buffalo districts will compete. Attendance, expenses and cleanliness will be the criteria on which awards will be made.

NBC Television Gets Soviet News Films

National Broadcasting has concluded an agreement with the Russian Government giving the network television rights to newsreel and special feature films made in the Soviet Union, it was announced yesterday by John F. Royal, NBC vice-president in charge of television.

Two Coast Stations Off Air in Strike

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19.—Broadcasts by two independent stations here were suspended today as AFL announcers struck for wage increases, while two other independent stations here and two in Oakland, also involved in the dispute, continued operations. Stations which went off the air are KYA and KSFO. Stations KSAN and KJBS of this city and KLX and ROW, Oakland, maintained schedules.

Closed Shops

(*Continued from page 1*)

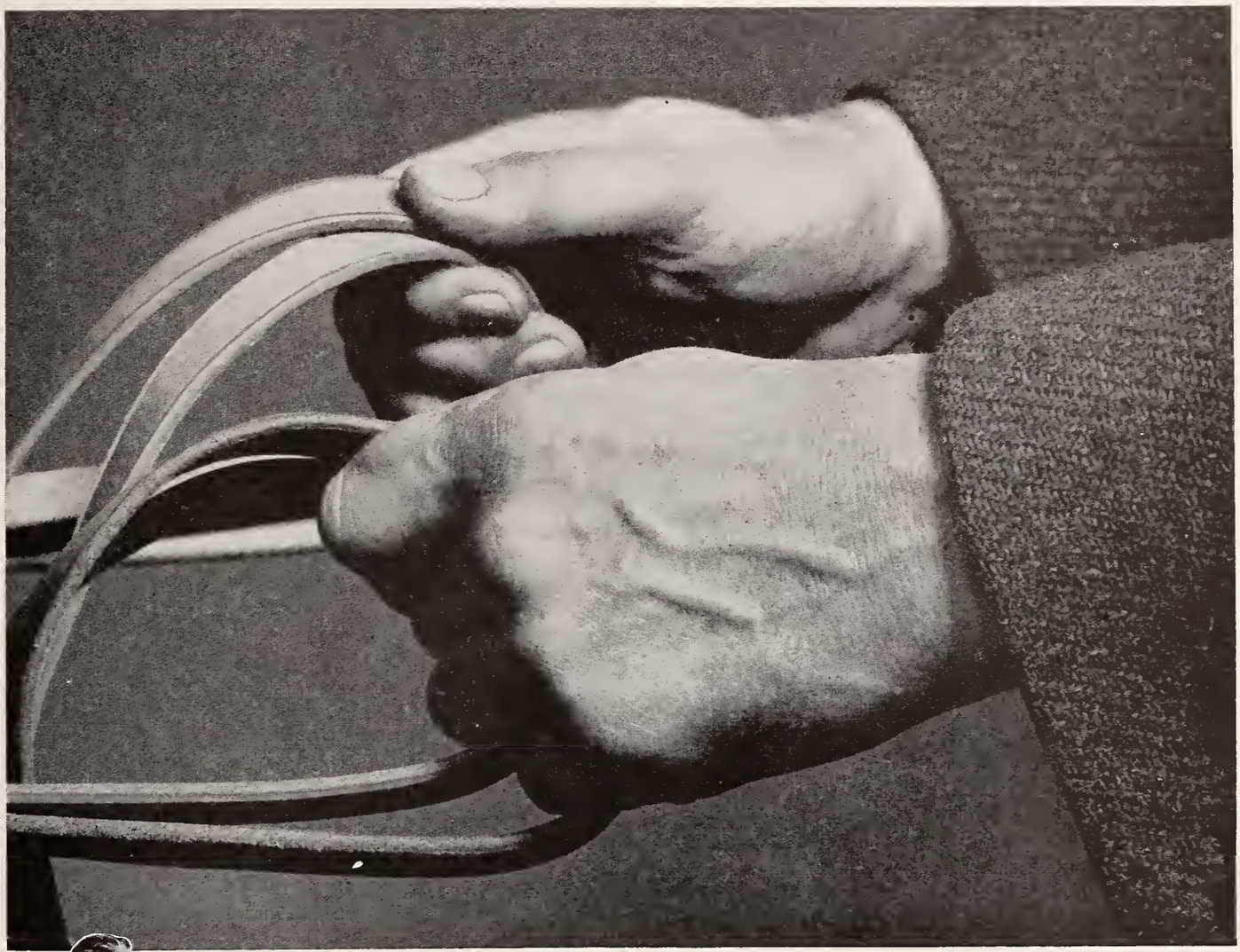
it appears, have been disinclined to destroy harmonious employee-management relationships merely for the sake of applying a closed shop law in their situations.

The IATSE, representing many thousands of projectionists throughout the country, exchange workers at most of the key cities, some theatre service employes and Hollywood studio personnel in various categories, has numerous closed shop contracts. Anti-closed shop legislation would affect this union principally in new territories it might seek to organize, according to Richard F. Walsh, international president.

Walsh noted that the "IA" already has closed-shop contracts in some states where "forcing" employers to sign such agreements is banned. In these areas, he said, there is nothing to prevent voluntary acceptance of a closed shop clause following legitimate negotiation between the parties. Thus, in Walsh's opinion, the existing arrangements, which have served to promote harmony, will continue without difficulty even in the states newly adopting such legislation.

The closed shop has been outlawed since 1943 in Florida, Arkansas, Nebraska, Arizona and South Dakota. This year the closed shop has been banned in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, and is threatened with a similar fate in Georgia. A measure to outlaw the closed shop and ban jurisdictional strikes has been introduced in the California legislature. Except in Arizona, regulations now in effect "outlawing" the closed shop provide that the right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership or non-membership in any labor organization. The Arizona law forbids denial of employment because of non-membership in a union, permitting, by implication, denial of employment because of union membership.

The closed shop does not prevail in film company home offices here. SOPEG and the Screen Publicists Guild hold contracts under which every fourth or fifth new employee is not required to join either.



He holds the reins on sound . . .

• As a skilled horseman controls a horse by his touch on the reins . . . now light, now firm, giving, taking—so does the production sound mixer control sound . . . amplifying, modulating . . . correlating sound with action in proper perspective.

In this day when the reality of sound must be absolute, the mixer's work has high importance. His knowledge of his art must be complete, his skill in using it great . . . for on him depends much of a picture's power to move and hold an audience.

And the mixer's skill is enhanced by working with films which assure faithful reproduction of sound . . . a quality which is so well provided by the family of Eastman sound films.

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Set Program for Greek Aid Luncheon

Harold Russell, handless war veteran who won two Academy Awards for his work in "The Best Years of Our Lives," will be present at the industry's luncheon for Greek war orphans in the Hotel Astor, here, on Monday. Also present will be Paul Economou-Gouras, Charge d'Affairs at the Greek Embassy.

Fred Schwartz will be toastmaster and the following are scheduled to be on the dais: Frank Walker, George Skouras, John O'Conner, Si Fabian, Joseph Vogel, Malcolm Kingsberg, Gus Eyssell, Harry Brandt, William White, Sam Rinzler, and others.

Gillham to SRO

(*Continued from page* 1)

work in association with Paul MacNamara, who continues in charge of advertising-publicity for Selznick.

It was reported but not confirmed that Gillham may appoint Al Wilkie, former Paramount publicity manager, to a corresponding post in SRO's Eastern and foreign organization.

U. S. Firms Accept Italian Program

By ARGEO SANTUCCI

ROME, March 13 (By Airmail). — American producer-distributor representatives here have accepted a six-point conditional program governing their Hollywood imports for the rest of 1947. The program, advanced by the Italian government, had been in discussion for a month. A revised program will be drawn up for 1948.

Provisions of the 1947 agreement include:

Importing countries are to grant Italy reciprocal treatment; proceeds from all imported features must be placed in a non-transferable lira account at a bank authorized to deal in foreign exchange selected by the importer; foreign companies producing in Italy must use Italian studio facilities and participate in Italian production up to 50 per cent; proceeds from such pictures will be shared proportionately, funds to be applied to the construction and rental of theatres; foreign companies may dispose of accumulated foreign exchange by exporting films produced in Italy in partnership; permission for importing must be obtained from the Minister of Foreign Trade.

Four new theatres will open in Rome within the next few months.

Bids Two U-I Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

ner Theatres located in that city.

U-I also closed a deal for "The Egg and I" with the Manor, suburban Charlotte theatre, in competitive bidding with Wilby-Kincey Theatres there.

Universal home office sales officials emphasized that the company is not soliciting competitive bids on any of its product and that the deals in Oklahoma City and Charlotte originated with the independent exhibitors involved. Terms were offered by the Home and Manor in both cities which were acceptable to Universal and were not matched by the circuits and other competition, it was said.

Stay Petitions

(*Continued from page* 1)

of briefs asking the continuance of the industry arbitration system is said to be under consideration by at least some of the five theatre-owning defendants.

If the petitioners can establish that a financial loss would result from placing the bidding system and other decree clauses in effect, Justice Reed would be bound by previous actions to grant stays, according to legal observers here.

UA Gets Broadway

(*Continued from page* 1)

nick Releasing Organization for physical distribution of the latter's "Duel in the Sun," which have been in progress despite SRO's announcement several weeks ago that it had made a deal with Film Carriers, were ended recently and the latter deal stands. SRO is said to have balked at the terms asked by UA for physical distribution, which were $15 per print for shipping and 35 cents per reel for servicing, among other provisions.

$6,600,000 in Gross Blocked by Italy

Rome, March 13 (By Airmail). — An estimated 1,500,000,000 lira ($6,600,000 by the official exchange rate), are deposited in blocked bank accounts by American film companies here. The Italian government permits only limited investment of this income, which is judged to be about 30,000,000 to 50,000,000 lira monthly from each U. S. company.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and 20th Century-Fox are said to have the most on deposit, with Warner Brothers third.

Yates Luncheon

(*Continued from page* 1)

a source of revenue as yet largely untapped, according to Yates, who revealed that his company had signed a contract yesterday with Loew's Inc., for foreign distribution of 16mm. prints of Republic pictures. He said that the factor to be considered is the lesser costs of exhibiting such prints.

Consolidated Laboratories, owned by Republic, has perfected a three-color process, Yates disclosed, which compares favorably with processes now in use. By October Consolidated will be able to supply color prints in a matter of days, as against the months now required by other firms. Upon installation of the required equipment, Republic will abandon its present two-color process for the new three-color process, which will also be called Trucolor.

"The transition from black-and-white to color films will, in my opinion, be as revolutionary as the transition from silent to sound pictures was," Yates said. He added that within two years all Republic pictures will be in color, with the possible exception of certain types of pictures in which black-and-white expresses the desired mood more accurately than color.

Feature on Hollywood

(*Continued from page* 1)

presided over a round-table discussion of the idea, which is the outgrowth of a suggestion advanced several months ago by the SWG to a Motion Picture Association committee headed by former vice-president Byron Price, who has since resigned to join the United Nations.

The SWG version of the project entails complete cooperation of all guilds and unions, with all producers taking a common interest. A decision on the project was reserved.

Pro-Owner Obscene Show Measure Dies

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—The Mitchell bill, which would have exempted the owner or lessee of a theatre from prosecution under the penal law for an indecent or obscene stage show was not reported out of the Senate Finance Committee, and died as the legislature adjourned.

Safety Bill Dies

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—A bill to change the definition of place of assembly and providing uniform enforcement of safety regulations by the State Industrial Commissioner in cities with 100,000 population, or more, died as the legislature adjourned here this week. The bill was not reported out of the Senate Finance Committee.

Tax Bill Still in Chamber

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—The bill authorizing a five per cent local amusement tax will be sent to the Governor within a few days, following receipt of the engrossing copy. Legislators believe that some cities may invoke the new levies, while rural counties proceed slowly.

5 New Censor Laws

(*Continued from page* 1)

manager of the Park in that city, described some of the legislative proposals as "vicious."

The meeting appointed a steering committee consisting of Edgar J. Doob, Loew's, Wilmington; Lewis S. Black, Warner, Wilmington; A. J. Belair, Rialto, Wilmington; Mrs. Reba Schwartz, Dover; Reese Harrington, Harrington; Walter Betts, Millsboro, and Mayor Edward C. Evans of Milford. A. J. DeFiore, Wilmington, was named chairman.

Circuit representatives at the meeting included Norman Pragar and Edward C. Evans, of the Schine circuit; A. J. Vanni, William Morgan and Lewis S. Black, of the Warner theatres, and Orville Crouch and Edgar J. Doob, of Loew's, Inc.

Fabian, ATA

(*Continued from page* 1)

then suggest a successor to himself.

Final decision on a date and place for the ATA convention will be made at the same time, according to Fabian. Washington and Chicago are both still under consideration, and the event is expected to be held before the end of May. Robert W. Coyne, ATA executive director, and Ned Shugrue, publicity director, are scheduled to return here today from Washington.

ATA officers, in addition to Fabian and Gamble, include: Charles Skouras, Los Angeles, first vice-president; William Skirball, Cleveland, second vice-president; Sam Pinanski, Boston, treasurer; William F. Crockett, Virginia Beach, Va., secretary.

IT'S TIME!

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FILMACK gives QUICKEST SERVICE on SPECIAL TRAILERS

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 19

"JOAN OF LORRAINE," for which no distribution deal has been set, will be made by the E. N. Corp., which is owned by Ingrid Bergman, Victor Fleming, Peetr Lindstrom and Walter Wanger.

•

Local boys make good: Lee Bennett, son of Cinecolor president William Crespinel, has been signed for a top role in the current Clarion production, "Albuquerque," which co-stars Randolph Scott, Barbara Britton, George (Gabby) Hayes and Lon Chaney. And Robert Peoples, son of Clem Peoples, chief jailer of Los Angeles County Jail, has been signed to a term contract by Paramount. He will make his debut in "Road to Rio" under the name of Bret Hamilton.

•

Warners has arranged to borrow Tim Holt from RKO Radio for an important part in "Treasure of the Sierra Madre." Walter Huston has also been signed for a leading role in the film, which John Huston will direct and Henry Blanke will produce. . . . Michael Fessier and Ernest Pagano, U-I producer-writer team, have been assigned to develop and produce the film version of the Broadway musical, "Bloomer Girl."

•

Ted Richmond and Robert Cohn, Columbia's newest producing team, have been assigned two story properties: "The Black Shadow," based on an Alexandre Dumas story, and "Thunderhoof," based on Jack London's "White Silence." . . . Producers Jesse L. Lasky and Walter MacEwen are looking for five campanologists, of all things. A campanologist is an expert bell-ringer, and five are required to ring the bells of the five churches which are featured in "The Miracle of the Bells," first Lasky-McEwen production for RKO Radio.

•

Henry Fonda has been assigned a stellar role in "Call Northside 777," which producer Otto Lang will film in Chicago for 20th Century-Fox. . . . Dame May Whitty has been engaged for a key part in Samuel Goldwyn's current production, "The Bishop's Wife." . . . Monogram producer Lindsley Parsons has signed Roddy McDowall to a contract, under the terms of which the juvenile actor will appear in two pictures annually over a three-year period, and will function as associate producer on the films.

Pa. Owners Adjourn

PHILADELPHIA, March 19. — The meeting here of the Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania has adjourned after protests against high film rentals in the light of declining box-office receipts. Plans to combat the situation will be drawn up at another meeting shortly, says S. E. Samuelson, business manager.

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Reviews

"Backlash"

(20th Century-Fox)

PROBLEMS for the audience to puzzle over in this slightly-above-average mystery are numerous and juicy. Was the criminal attorney really poisoned by his wife before being found shot through the heart and burned in his wrecked auto, or did somebody else do the job? Were the charred remains really those of the criminal attorney, or of the escaping convict he picked up, or of an unknown third party? Had his wife been true to him, or had she been running around with the district attorney? Where does the victim's embattled law partner fit into the picture, if at all?

These and other assorted ingredients have been stirred into a fairly palatable detective stew, greatly to the credit of writer Irving Elman and director Eugene Forde, who used frequent flashbacks and shifting points of view to keep everybody guessing and yet came through with a solid job for producer Sol M. Wurtzel.

The cast is all adequate, with Leonard Strong outstanding as a tramp who stumbles across the solution. John Eldredge is the criminal attorney, Jean Rogers the wife, and Richard Travis the "DA." But chief focus is on the investigations of Detective Lieutenant Larry Blake and his assistant, Richard Benedict. They finally pick up the escaping convict, Douglas Fowley, along with the victim's partner, Robert Shayne, and the girl friend of both suspects, Louise Currie. Thus, with two triangles, plus an unknown number of killings to be resolved, there is plenty of excuse for the pistol-packing finish.

Running time, 66 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

TOM LOY.

"Tarzan and the Huntress"

(RKO Radio)

A LIVELY jungle story, some first-rate wild animal stock shots, and sprightly talkativeness on the part of the usually quiet Tarzan (Johnny Weismuller), make this latest of the RKO Radio series, based upon characters created by Edgar Rice Burroughs, a far-better-than-average piece of Tarzan merchandise. Brenda Joyce and Johnny Sheffield again play Tarzan's wife and son. The cast, a good one, also includes Patricia Morison, Barton MacLane, John Warburton, Charles Trowbridge, and others.

Miss Morison, MacLane and Warburton appear as bring-'em-back-alive animal hunters who seek to capture more than their fair share of animals, a jungle quota restriction notwithstanding. They conspire toward this end with an avaricious jungle prince who kills his uncle, a good and wise king, and takes over the throne. Tarzan, his family and Cheta, the educated chimpanzee, step in, of course, to prevent depletion of the jungle, and in the end rout the hunters with an elephant stampede. Associate producer Kurt Neumann, directing from a screenplay by Jerry Gruskin and Rowland Leigh, makes certain there is never a dull moment in this well-devised production by Sol Lesser.

Running time, 72 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April 5.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Apache Rose"

(Republic)

PITTING horses against automobiles for chase sequences, and Roy Rogers against ruthless gamblers for vigorous hand-to-hand scrapes, "Apache Rose," aided by several entertaining musical numbers rendered by Rogers, Dale Evans and Bob Nolan and the Sons of the Pioneers, is a notch or two above average. Furthermore, it offers Rogers in color, in Republic's own Trucolor. All in all, Western fans, and more specifically, Rogers' followers, should respond favorably.

Rogers, as an enterprising petroleum engineer, discovers oil on property which is part of a ranch owned by Russ Vincent. But Rogers' efforts to convince Vincent to lease exploitation rights meet with failure when gamblers to whom the ranch head is indebted intervene to wrest those rights. After an attempted killing of Vincent's cousin and co-owner, Miss Evans, operator of a tugboat and object of Vincent's proposals, assumes the cousin's identity and helps Rogers bring the badman to justice. Olin Howlin, a former associate of Rogers, goes along for the laughs. George Meeker, head of the racketeers, is a slick operator. Edward J. White was associate producer and William Witney directed, from an original by Gerald Geraghty. Photography, by Jack Marta, is striking, particularly in oceanside gun-battle scenes.

Running time, 75 minutes. General audience classification.

IRVING KAPLAN

Indiana Theatre Burns

CARLISLE, Ind., March 19.—The Vivian Theatre has been completely destroyed by fire. It was operated by John N. Allison.

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Ten Additional Films Get Legion Ratings

The National Legion of Decency has rated the following as A-I: "Apache Rose," Republic; "Blondie's Holiday" and "The Lone Hand Texan," both Columbia; "Buck Privates Come Home," Universal; "High Barbaree," M-G-M.

Placed in Class A-II were: "The Devil Thumbs a Ride," RKO Radio; "Hard Boiled Mahoney," Monogram; "Imperfect Lady," Paramount; "Ramrod," United Artists; "Forbidden Music" (Italian), Continental Pictures.

Start thinking now about the business you'll do when you play

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC Eagle-Lion	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Feb. 22	(Feb. Release) DEAD RECKONING D—100 mins. MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY D—82 mins.	(Feb. Releases) LOVE LAUGHS at ANDY HARDY MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES BOOMTOWN (Reprint)		CALIFORNIA (Color) Ray Milland O—97 min. (Rev. 12/16/46)	LAW OF THE LASH Al LaRue Fuzzy St. John O—58 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)	APACHE ROSE (Color) Roy Rogers O—75 mins. VIGILANTES OF BOOMTOWN Alan Lane O—56 mins. THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	DICK TRACY VS. CUEBALL Morgan Conway Rita Corday D—62 mins. (Rev. 11/18/46)	(Feb. Releases) BOOMERANG THE BRASHER DOUBLOON HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY	(Chas. R. Rogers) FABULOUS DORSEY Tommy Dorsey Jimmie Dorsey M—90 mins. (Rev. 2/25/47)		NORA PRENTISS Ann Sheridan Kent Smith D—111 mins. (Rev. 2/4/47)
Mar. 1					DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman		THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)			(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8	13TH HOUR Richard Dix D—65 mins. THE LONE HAND TEXAN (Rev. 2/27/47)			EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Rev. 3/10/47) (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Rev. 3/10/47)	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	(March Releases) BACKLASH Richard Travis Jean Rogers ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)	(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders D—115 mins. (Rev. 2/26/47)	(Reissue) WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15	(March Release) JOHNNY O'CLOCK Dick Powell Evelyn Keyes D—85 mins. (Rev. 1/2/47)		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong Clifford Penn D—64 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)		(Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr (Rev. 3/10/47)		THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22	MILLIE'S DAUGHTER Gladys George Gay Nelson D—70 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	(March Release) BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)	THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore	TRAIL STREET Randolph Scott Robert Ryan O—84 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)		(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett D—90 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29	WEST OF DODGE CITY (Rev. 3/14/47) KING OF THE WILD HORSES (Rev. 3/14/47)		TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR	THE DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE Lawrence Tierney D—62 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)		(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID (Color) Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	THAT WAY WITH WOMEN Sydney Greenstreet Martha Vickers C—85 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)
April 5	BLONDIE'S HOLIDAY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—67 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	(April Releases) IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN Frank Sinatra Jimmy Durante C—103 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)	SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker		BEAT THE BAND Frances Langford M—67 mins. (Rev. 2/24/47)		(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	(April Releases) BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME Abbott-Costello C—77 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	
April 12	(April Releases) GUILT OF JANET AMES Rosalind Russell Melvyn Douglas D—81 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	LITTLE MR. JIM Butch Jenkins James Craig D—94 mins. (Rev. 6/10/46)	VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		FRONTIER FIGHTERS Buster Crabbe Fuzzy St. John	BELLS OF SAN ANGELO Roy Rogers Dale Evans	CODE OF THE WEST James Warren O—57 mins. (Rev. 2/21/47)			YOU CAN'T CHEAT AN HONEST MAN (Reissue) W. C. Fields C—73 mins. (Rev. 2/20/39)	STALLION ROAD Ronald Reagan Alexis Smith Zachary Scott
April 19	FRAMED Glenn Ford Janis Carter Barry Sullivan D—82 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	THE SEA OF GRASS Spencer Tracy Katherine Hepburn D—125 mins. (Rev. 2/13/47)	HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas D—83 mins. (Rev. 3/13/47)		PHILO VANCE'S GAMBLE Alan Curtis Frank Jenks		THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER Loretta Young Joseph Cotten C—97 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)		(Jules Levey) NEW ORLEANS Arturo de Cordova Dorothy Patrick	I STOLE A MILLION (Reissue) George Raft Claire Trevor D—78 mins. (Rev. 7/18/39)	
April 26			HARD BOILED MAHONEY Leo Gorcey Huntz Hall	THE IMPERFECT LADY Ray Milland Teresa Wright D—97 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	WEST TO GLORY Eddie Dean THUNDERGAP OUTLAWS						
May 3			LAND OF THE LAWLESS J. Mack Brown Raymond Hatton		(Eagle-Lion) RED STALLION Robert Paige Ted Donaldson				(Enterprise) RAMROD Joel McCrea Veronica Lake O—94 mins. (Rev. 2/21/47)		

[*Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.)* Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*]

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 56 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1947 | TEN CENTS

20th-Fox Net For Year Is $22,600,000

1946 Profit, 8 Millions Above Previous Year's

Net profit of 20th Century-Fox for the year ended Dec. 28, 1946, is estimated at $22,600,000 according to a report to stockholders by Spyros P. Skouras, company president. The figure soared above the previous year's net of $12,746,467 to the tune of more than $8,000,000.

Spyros P. Skouras

Last year's net, as well as the previous year's is arrived at after all charges of 20th-Fox and its voting-controlled subsidiaries, including National Theatres and Roxy

(Continued on page 6)

Universal Reelects Cowdin, Blumberg

J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of Universal's board of directors, Nate J. Blumberg, president, and all other officers were reelected at a meeting of

(Continued on page 7)

5 Censorship Bills Reported in Error

A story from Milford, Del., printed in *Motion Picture Daily* yesterday, which reported that film censorship measures had been passed by the North and South Dakota, Indiana, West Virginia and Montana state legislatures was in error.

Censorship bills were defeated in Indiana and West Virginia. The Motion Picture Association has no knowledge of such bills in the other three legislatures. The report was attributed to an MPA official.

Johnston Describes General Approval Of Production Code

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—"Satisfaction with the Production Code is general" among the producers, directors and writers, with whom he held open forum discussions during the past three days, Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston told the press today in his first interview since arrival here early last week. He added that, "Although there were some, of course, who complained that their art was being stifled, I found a surprising degree of acceptance throughout the studios."

Johnston's talks to studio groups included, he said, a report by him on conditions abroad in a "very sick

(Continued on page 6)

Formal Universal Bidding in South

F. J. A. McCarthy, Universal-International Southern division sales manager, has inaugurated formal competitive bidding wherever requested in all competitive situations throughout his territory, he reported here yesterday, following his return from a tour through the area.

Previously, E. T. Gomersall, assistant general sales manager, had explained that, while the company has adopted no blanket policy to put formal bidding into effect prior to the July 1 deadline set by the New York

(Continued on page 7)

Pickford, Chaplin Due Here Next Week

Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin, co-owners of United Artists are expected at the home office here next week from the Coast to hold definitive meetings on the reshaping of company affairs.

The UA board will meet today to act on the leasing of the Broadway Theatre at 53rd Street and Broadway here. Negotiations for the house, owned by the Shuberts, already have been concluded.

UA to Lease Houses For 'Carnegie Hall'

The trend toward theatre leasing deals for road-showing top films continues, with United Artists aiming to lease some 200 houses around the country for exhibition of "Carnegie Hall," Boris Morros-William LeBaron production.

Previously, plans for leasing deals were made known by Samuel Goldwyn, for his "Best Years of Our Lives," and by Enterprise for its "Arch of Triumph."

UA's decision to roadshow "Carnegie," followed a test run at the Bushnell Memorial Auditorium, Hartford. UA field representatives are now negotiating theatre-leasing contracts for the film. General release is not planned for some time, probably not until next year. "Carnegie" will play its pre-release runs on a two or three-a-day policy.

Decree Application Calls For Showmanship: Skouras

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—Impending application of the provisions of the Federal Court's decision in the New York anti-trust suit, and an increasing demonstration by the public of selectivity toward motion picture entertainment, are two conditions which will make success in exhibition more than ever depend upon efficient theatre operation and aggressive showmanship, Charles P. Skouras, president of National Theatres and Fox West Coast told 250 FWC managers and circuit executives here yesterday.

The occasion was the first of a series of meetings launching the annual "Skouras Showmanship Drive."

(Continued on page 7)

Ready to Produce US 'News Magazine'

Production of "News Magazine," one-reel, semi-monthly film on U. S. domestic affairs sponsored by the U. S. Department of State, will go into production within the next week at RKO Pathe studios here, it was disclosed yesterday by Hamilton MacFadden, associate chief of the international motion picture division of the State Department, and Walton C. Ament, vice-president and general manager of RKO Pathe.

The films will be documented in 24 languages and are slated for distribu-

(Continued on page 6)

5 Companies Unite to Save Arbitration

To File Document Today or Monday

The five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit have united on a Supreme Court application asking continuance of the industry arbitration system beyond April 1, and will file the document today or Monday, immediately following the preparation of printed copies, a spokesman for the defense counsel said here yesterday.

This petition, seeking to have the New York Federal District Court's dissolution of the arbitration machinery stayed pending the outcome of an appeal on that issue, will be considered by Justice Stanley F. Reed at a closed hearing in Washington next Thursday or Friday, along with Universal's, Columbia's and United Artists' petitions for stays of competitive bidding and numerous injunctions of the New York decree.

The theatre-owning defendants will

(Continued on page 7)

Myers Charges Bids Being 'Discredited'

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Competitive bidding is being used by distributors to stir up antagonism among independent exhibitors with a view to securing still higher film rentals, Abram F. Myers, Allied States board chairman, charged today.

"Competitive bidding is being dis-

(Continued on page 7)

Partners May Bid on Co-owner's Product

A theatre operated with a distributor on a partnership basis would be compelled to bid for the product of that distributor, according to attorneys particularly concerned with this situation as it is covered by the

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

"Untamed Fury" is reviewed on page 5.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

UNITED ARTISTS' views of the "potentially disastrous consequences" of decree selling is expressed, strictly gag-wise, in a sample "Branch Managers' Decree Selling and Escape Kit," assembled at the UA home office by advertising-publicity director Paul Lazarus, Jr., and containing the following equipment and pertinent instructions:

An expense voucher for $78, earmarked: "For caviar and champagne for the (exhibitor) customer; a contract form for a competitive area film deal; a bottle of fine liquor for celebrating the conclusion of the deal; stationery for "writing to family and UA sales manager Grad Sears" during the lengthy period required to negotiate the deal.

The salesman is warned that at the conclusion of the deal, "a gentleman with handcuffs arrives, charging collusion, legerdemain, contempt, etc." But the salesman need not give up hope yet, for the UA kit provides tools for escaping from jail, together with a nice shiny pistol. And, finally, if all is beyond hope, the company further provides such "commodities" as a sharp razor, poison, and a noose!"

▽

Plagued by juvenile rowdyism, the Main Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, has pasted on its box-office window a set of rules for theatre conduct among youngsters, with a warning that infractions will cause expulsion without refunds. Marked out-of-bounds are: "Cracking gum, Everlastingly changing seats, Using bean shooters, Roaming the theatre for dates, Using water-guns, Throwing things, Using cap pistols, Lighting matches," etc.

▽

Dave Epstein, producer Fritz Lang's Hollywood press agent, describes as 'flattering" an offer sent by Lang to Mississippi's Theodore (The Man) Bilbo to appear in the producer's next production, "Corruption."

▽

Lost Weekend Department, headline in the *New York Herald Tribune*: "Stores Say Liquor Taxes Are at Saturation Point."

▽

A purse containing $2,300 worth of jewels found last November in New York's Music Hall by 19-year-old usher Harold Harris, and turned over by him to the police, has been returned to Harris, unclaimed.

▽

On paper as pink as the color of his embarrassed countenance, Columbia home office publicist Ray Murray sent to our news desk the startling announcement that the League of Present Day Artists is shipping a "permanitized" plastic life-size figure of Rita Hayworth, which his organization is shipping to troops of Task Force Frigid in Fairbanks, Alaska, with the request that the shapely figure be buried in the snows "down to earth, so that posterity 100 years from today might see what one of the most beautiful girls of 1947 looked like."

Personal Mention

BEN GOETZ, M-G-M production chief in England, is due here from the Coast on April 4, en route to London.

•

CHESTER FRIEDMAN, editor of the *Manager's Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald,* was reported "resting comfortably" at Lexington Hospital here last night following an appendectomy.

•

JACK SEGAL, vice-president and treasurer of Columbia International, has returned to New York from a six-month European tour.

•

WILLIAM SCHRECKLER, manager of the Strand, Memphis, and MRS. SCHRECKLER, have returned there from a honeymoon in Mississippi.

•

NAT WEINREB of the 20th Century-Fox story department here, is the father of a baby boy, born last Friday at Beth Israel Hospital, New York.

•

CHARLES BOWERS, manager of the Hollywood Theatre, here, will be married to the theatre's assistant manager, NOLDA BISHOP, today.

•

LEO SAMUELS, assistant to WILLIAM LEVY, international sales head of Walt Disney Productions, is due here today from London.

•

HARVEY DAY, SR., Eastern representative for JULES LEVEY, will return to New York from New Orleans early next week.

•

HERBERT BIBERMAN, producer associate of JULES LEVEY, will leave New York for Hollywood tomorrow.

•

JASON S. JOY, 20th Century-Fox studio personnel manager, is en route to New York from the Coast by train.

NORTON V. RITCHEY, president of Monogram International, will leave here today for Chicago.

•

ED HINCHY, head of the Warner playdate department, is accompanying BEN KALMENSON, vice-president and general sales manager, on a trip to Philadelphia, Washington and Pittsburgh.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatres, will leave here tomorrow for Mexico City for the opening of the company's Prado Theatre there March 27.

•

JULIAN BLAUSTEIN, Selznick studio executive, is the father of a baby boy, born Tuesday at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Hollywood.

•

J. R. EDWARDS, formerly of Atlanta, has been named manager of the Martin-Thompson theatres in Live Oak, Alimar and Suwanee, Fla.

•

LEONARD VAUGHN has been appointed manager of the Columbia Theatre, Lake City, Fla., by owner ROBERT CANNON.

•

REUBEN ROSENBERG, RKO Radio production executive, will arrive here today from England.

•

LOUIS J. KAUFMAN, Warner Theatres executive, has left here for Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

•

FRANK LAUNDER, British Eagle-Lion producer, left here yesterday for the Coast.

•

BENEDICT BOGEAUS and his wife, DOLORES MORAN, will leave Hollywood this weekend for New York.

•

LEO PILLOT of Columbia left New York yesterday for Richmond, Va.

Intermissions Raise Candy Vending Sales

CHICAGO, March 20.—Trailer orders received during the past three week by the local Filmack Trailer Co. indicate that many theatres throughout the country are instituting short intermission periods in an effort to bolster vending receipts.

The trailers announce the intermissions and call attention to the theatre's confection items available. Many of the intermissions are for a three-minute time period with theatre managers claiming that candy sales have shown a decided increase as a result.

Seven Classed 'Adult'

TORONTO, March 20.—Seven features have been classed as "adult entertainment" by the Ontario Board of Censors compared with five "A" pictures in the previous month, it is announced. The "A" graded features were "Johnny O'Clock," "Blind Spot," "Woman to Woman," "Sea of Grass," "Nora Prentiss," "Accomplice" and "Beast with Five Fingers."

Phila. Paper Asks Television Permit

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—The WIBG *Philadelphia Daily News* Television Corp., a new firm combining the interests of radio station WIBG and the *Philadelphia Daily News,* has filed application with the Federal Communications Commission for a new television station to be set up in this city.

Houtz in K.C. Shift

KANSAS CITY, March 20. — Neil Houtz, long with Eddie Mansfield, Commonwealth Theatres' city manager here, is now at district headquarters booking for Commonwealth's city theatres. Morton Vinzant succeeds Houtz as manager of the Ashland.

DANA ANDREWS in
"BOOMERANG"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE — PHIL REGAN
KATHERINE DUNHAM . ERNESTO LECUONA
ED SULLIVAN . SID CAESAR
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN in
'THE LATE GEORGE APLEY'
Introducing PEGGY CUMMINS
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
THE MUSIC HALL'S
GREAT EASTER STAGE SHOW

3rd HIT WEEK!
"UNUSUAL! SUPERIOR!" — Times
JOHN WAYNE GAIL RUSSELL
"ANGEL and the BADMAN"
with
HARRY CAREY - BRUCE CABOT
IRENE RICH - LEE DIXON
A JOHN WAYNE Production
A Republic Picture
BRANDT'S GOTHAM B'way & 47th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
Laraine DAY · Brian AHERNE
Robert MITCHUM-Gene RAYMOND
'THE LOCKET' AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
HUMPHREY BOGART
LIZABETH SCOTT
'DEAD RECKONING'
IN PERSON
GENE SHELDON
Extra!
'SONGWRITERS ON PARADE'
Plus OTHERS

BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
"MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE"
In Person
JIMMY DORSEY and his orchestra
PAT HENNING
Lyn Shirley
LOUIS JORDAN and his Tympany Five
PARAMOUNT - TIMES SQUARE

The Academy Award Picture!
Winner of Nine Academy Awards!
'THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES'
ASTOR B'way & 45th St.

Paramount's
"BLAZE OF NOON"
RIVOLI THEATER B'way & 49th St.
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.

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Here's Another Reason Why We Say:

"IT'S HAPPIER THAN HEAVEN...THE HIT OF '47!"

UNITED ARTISTS CORPORATION

1040 NORTH LAS PALMAS AVE.
HOLLYWOOD 38, CALIF.

729 SEVENTH AVE.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

February 25, 1947

Mr. Steve Broidy
Allied Artists Studios
4376 Sunset Blvd.
Hollywood, California

Dear Steve:

Many thanks for allowing me to see IT HAPPENED ON FIFTH AVENUE. I consider this one of the finest and most delightful comedies I have ever seen. Both Roy Del Ruth and yourself are to be congratulated on bringing such splendid entertainment to the screen.

I certainly wish my organization were distributing this picture but since this is impossible, I can only say "it couldn't happen to a nicer guy".

Sincerely,

Grad

GRADWELL SEARS
VICE-PRESIDENT

GS/lg

ALLIED ARTISTS PRODUCTIONS, INC presents

DON DeFORE · ANN HARDING · CHARLIE RUGGLES · VICTOR MOORE · GALE STORM

in ROY DEL RUTH'S

"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"

with GRANT MITCHELL · EDWARD BROPHY · EDWARD RYAN, Jr.

Produced and Directed by ROY DEL RUTH · Associate Producer, JOE KAUFMAN · Screenplay by EVERETT FREEMAN

Story by HERBERT CLYDE LEWIS & FREDERICK STEPHANI · Musical Score by EDWARD WARD

Music and Lyrics by HARRY REVEL & PAUL WEBSTER

Coming Events

Tomorrow — Monogram directors meeting, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

March 24—Film industry's Greek War Orphan Relief luncheon, Hotel Astor, New York.

March 25—Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, dinner, Hotel Astor, New York.

March 25-26—Rocky Mountain area exhibitors meeting, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver.

March 27—Annual ASCAP meeting, Ritz Carlton Hotel, New York.

March 27—Testimonial for Charles Boasberg, Hotel Astor, New York.

March 27-28—National conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Philadelphia.

March 31—Annual meeting of the Motion Picture Association, New York.

April 14-15—Television executives to meet at the Hotel Commodore, New York.

April 20—Theatre Equipment and Supply Dealers meeting, Hotel Drake, Chicago.

April 21-22—North Central Allied convention, Minneapolis.

Broder Acquires 40 UA Re-releases

Broder American Releasing Corp. has acquired 40 United Artists re-releases for distribution in the U. S., Paul Broder, president, discloses.

Eight of these, he said, are being prepared for release shortly. They are: "Buckskin Frontier," "The Kansan," "You Only Live Once," "History Is Made at Night," "Stand In," "House Across the Bay," "The Long Voyage Home" and "Sundown."

National Screen Service is at present making trailers on the eight, Broder reported.

Northwest Airlines Testing Use of Film

MINNEAPOLIS, March 20.—Northwest Airlines is experimenting with the idea of showing motion pictures on its planes on the Pacific run. This follows Robert Young's recent introduction of films on his Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

The line has not yet decided what type of pictures will be shown if the experiments are successful.

"Conquest' Postponed

HOLLYWOOD, March 20. — National release date of Irving Allen's "High Conquest" has been set back three months to June 1 to give the recently completed film maximum national advertising and exploitation campaigns.

Seasonal Book Sales Hit an FPC Record

TORONTO, March 20.—The annual contest for the sale of gift books of admission tickets by employes of Famous Players Canadian Corp. resulted in a new record for aggregate returns. Total sales were $1,339 higher than one year ago, when the mark was some $80,000 greater than the preceding annual contest. For the third year in succession the individual selling champion proved to be Dennis Murphy of the Capitol Theatre, Halifax. Second and third were J. W. Parsons, Capitol, Regina, and B. Blondell, the Imperial, Toronto.

SWG Modifies Plan For Author Authority

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—In a 64-page supplement to its monthly magazine, the Screen Writers Guild has published a revised version of its proposal for formation of an American Authors Authority plan for leasing instead of selling the rights to written works. The SWG statement says that the new version includes modifications designed to meet "the more valid objections aroused by the first prospectus as outlined by novelist James M. Cain." It proposes to set up the AAA as a non-profit corporation and as an integral part of the Authors League.

New Paramount Record

The Paramount, Times Square, sold 9,000 tickets at 55 cents each, including tax, by one P.M., Wednesday when the price change went into effect, according to Robert Weitman, managing director. It was the opening stanza of a new show, headed by "My Favorite Brunette" as the feature and a stage show with Jimmy Dorsey and his orchestra, Pat Henning, Lyn Shirley, and Louis Jordan and His Tympany Five.

The figure is a record since Weitman inaugurated his "early bird" policy.

Cite Pete Smith Short

Pete Smith's latest M-G-M short, "I Love My Wife, but . . .", has been selected by the National Laugh Week Foundation as a key for "National Laugh Week," April 1-8, the inauguration to take place at the first annual National Gagwriters convention to be held March 26 at Public School No. 17, here. Smith himself has been nominated for the proposed "Humor Hall of Fame" which is to be set up by the Foundation to cite those who have made outstanding contributions in the field of American humor.

Safe Balks Thieves

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—An attempted robbery at the Oxford Theatre, in Northeast Philadelphia, was balked when the thieves were unable to crack the 500-pound theatre safe containing $2,500. After apparently working several hours in the early morning, the robbers left hastily, leaving behind a 15-pound sledge-hammer and an assortment of tools.

Tent 19 Donates $5,000

BALTIMORE, March 20.—Variety Club Tent No. 19 has donated $5,000 to the Cylburn Home for Children, the presentation having been made by William K. Saxton, ex-chief barker, in the absence of chief barker Fred Schanberger, Jr., who is hospitalized.

Review Board Set For Reorganization

Some of 22 additional national organizations were welcomed to the ranks of the National Board of Review yesterday, as it initiated a program of reorganizing its constitution with the objective of transfering control of the board to the organizations represented within it and for the direct election of a board of directors from its own membership. Quincy Howe, president of the board, in outlining the change to an audience of 500 delegates from all over the country, announced that representatives from 22 new groups will be convoked in April as a general assembly to draft the constitutional changes.

The reorganization plan was disclosed at the board's 38th anniversary conference yesterday at the Hotel McAlpin here, which had as its theme the status and potentialities of films in the world today. Speakers included Jean Benoit-Levy, former French director and now director of films and visual information for the United Nations; Louis de Rochemont, 20th Century-Fox producer, who discussed plans to concentrate on documentary films for educational purposes, and Orton H. Hicks of Loew's International. Schools and community relations were the dominant subjects at the morning session.

Also adopted by the board were resolutions lauding the development of a Children's Film Library by the MPA, voicing support of the United Nation's film project, and calling for the production of more "family pictures."

Howe and Richard Griffith, executive director of the National Board, presided over the sessions.

Anti-Bingo Bill Loses In Ohio Legislature

CINCINNATI, March 20.—The Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee has killed the anti-bingo bill of Sen. George C. Shurtz of Newcomerstown and has voted to legalize bingo when conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes. The game is said to provide serious theatre competition here, particularly for neighborhood houses.

Fox Midwest Meeting

KANSAS CITY, March 20.—A convention of the Fox Midwest division of National Theatres will be held in Kansas City on Monday, March 31, preliminary to the company's fifth annual showmanship campaign. Charles Skouras, president of National Theatres, will speak. Others to be present from Los Angeles headquarters will be Tom Page, John Bertero and Ed Cabel. Elmer C. Rhoden, president of Fox Midwest, will conduct the sessions.

'Henry' in Louisville

LOUISVILLE, March 20.—"Henry V" will play a one-week engagement here at the Scoop Theatre beginning yesterday. The film is being shown twice daily on a reserved-seat basis. The Scoop ordinarily is a newsreel theatre.

Amusement Expenditure

COLUMBUS, O., March 20.—The average Ohioan spent $12.08 in 1946 for amusements, according to an estimate by the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Two Companies File In Connecticut

HARTFORD, March 20.—Certificates of incorporation have been filed by the following corporation at the State capital here: Associated Film Libraries, Inc., Hartford; president, Alfred C. Baldwin, Jr.; vice-president, Tony Pastor; treasurer, Alexander Warner; secretary, Clarence Kantrowitz.

Montrose Theatre Corp., Waterbury; president, John R. Mahan; vice-president, Marie F. Mahan; treasurer, Edward J. Clifford; secretary, Peter J. Flynn.

Fredlyn, Tanney in Loew Shifts Here

Irwin Fredlyn, assistant manager of Loew's Metropolitan, has been named acting manager of Loew's Palace in Brooklyn by Eugene Picker, head of Loew theatre operations here. Picker has also named Morris Tanney assistant at Loew's 46th Street to be acting manager of Loew's Boro Park, also in Brooklyn.

M-G-M Abandons Story

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—In the first press release of its kind, M-G-M announces that "Evelyn Waugh, English novelist, yesterday left Hollywood to return to England, following an unsuccessful effort by M-G-M to develop an adaptation of his "Brideshead Revisited" that would meet the requirements of the Production Code." The statement concluded: "It was decided that the studio could not make revisions which would meet requirements of the Production Code without a resultant impairment of the novel's dramatic value."

Pine Honors Hollander

HOLLYWOOD, March 20. — William K. Hollander, veteran advertising director for Balaban and Katz in Chicago, was honored tonight at the home of producer William H. Pine at a party attended by 32 production personalities formerly associated with Hollander in B. and K. Other Hollywood people who started their careers at B and K. will entertain Hollander at the Brown Derby at luncheon tomorrow.

Colonial Cuts Prices

ALBANY, N. Y., March 20.—The Colonial, neighborhood theatre operated by attorneys J. Stephen Holt and Jack Olshansky, has reduced admission prices Monday through Thursday evening shows from 44 to 35 cents. The charge for children has also been cut, from 20 to 16 cents. The old scale holds good other days.

'Saint' Premiere Set

"Citizen Saint," biographical feature on the life of St. Frances Cabrini, will have a world premiere on Saturday, April 12, at Constitution Hall, Washington, it was announced here yesterday by producer Clyde Elliott. Directly following the premiere, the film will be roadshown in key cities at advanced prices.

Rossi Reception Today

Tino Rossi, French film star, will be the guest at a press reception to be given by Siritzky International at the Hotel Savoy Plaza here this afternoon. Rossi will be the first performer to inaugurate a new film-stage show policy at Siritzky's Ambassador Theatre, here.

Clark, Bradley, Lake Win Para. Contest

Winners in Paramount's "34th and Greatest Year" sales drive, which ran from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 1946, were announced here yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, distribution vice-president.

Winning district manager was M. R. (Duke) Clark, Dallas, who also has jurisdiction over Oklahoma City and Memphis. Top branch manager was Gordon Bradley, New Orleans, with second prize going to Herbert Kaufman, Seattle, and third place to Fred Larned, Dallas.

Leading salesman was Samuel Lake of Henry Randel's New York branch. Others among the top 10 salesmen were: Maurice Artigues, New Orleans; Marion Anderson, Kansas City; Edgar Shinn, New Orleans; Max Hadfield, Seattle; Edward Bell, New York; Truman Hendrix, Dallas; Louis Aurelio, Chicago; Robert Clark, Los Angeles; Harley Davidson, Washington.

Kitty Flynn, New York, was first among the bookers of over-the-counter sales. Jerry Horowitz, New York, came in second; Edna Boyd, St. Louis, third. The field representative winning first prize is Leonard Allen, New Orleans; second-prize winner is Robert Blair, Seattle.

Special prizes go to the following personnel of the three leading branches:

New Orleans: Shiloh Otis, Foster A. Hotard, Harold S. Wyckoff, Irma Rogers, Louis S. Dwyer, Jane McDonnell.

Seattle: Lawrence Pulis, John Kent, Hannah Trager, Gordon Wallinger, David Dunkle.

Dallas: H. G. Simmons, Stanley Zimmerman, Frank Rule, Paul Chapman, Walter Wiens, John B. Daumeyer, William Sebe Miller, Thomas W. Luce, Jr., R. B. Parker, Jr., Jack V. Cole, Claude E. Lindsey, Margie A. Seely, W. D. Cowan, Louis Fulenwider.

Carrier Names Chester

SYRACUSE, March 20.—Appointment of John F. Chester as director of public relations of Carrier Corp., air conditioning manufacturer, is announced by Cloud Wampler, president.

Flying is the way to travel to—

CHICAGO
PITTSBURGH
LOS ANGELES

—and TWA is the friendly way to fly.

See your travel agent or phone
LExington 2-7100
Save time with TWA AIRFREIGHT

TWA
TRANS WORLD AIRLINE

Review

"Untamed Fury"

(PRC)

A VAGUE move in the direction of social significance is made in PRC's "Untamed Fury," a rambling story of one man's attempt to introduce progress into an alligator-ridden, swampland section of the deep South. While the pattern of events is often predictable, excitement intermittently mounts to a high pitch, making it agreeable entertainment.

Gaylord Pendleton has the lead in the Danches Brothers production, as a young engineer who returns to the backward land of his birth with plans of reconstructing it nearer to one's desire. Blended into the story is a romantic angle between Mary Conwell and Pendleton, with Althea Murphy, as the city-bred siren, providing the disruptive triangle.

The difficulties of preparing the way for the construction of highways, schools and hospitals becomes almost insuperable as they meet the organized resistance of habit-bound natives. Told in flashback, the dramatic impact is drawn from the constant ebb and flow of hostility to Pendleton. It takes a climax in which Pendleton rescues his chief antagonist from quicksand before the natives are awakened to the bright possibilities of scientific engineering. Ewing Scott produced and directed, from a screenplay by Taylor Caven and Paul Gerard Smith.

Running time, 61 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 22.

MANNY HERBSTMAN

R. M. Moscow Joins Sack Amusement

DALLAS, March 20.—Robert M. Moscow, son of the late Sam Moscow, formerly Southern division manager for Columbia Pictures, has joined Sack Amusement Enterprises as film production manager, in complete charge of Sack's Negro feature production schedule at Sack's new Harlemwood Studios, Dallas.

Moscow was attached to the U. S. Signal Corps during World War II, and worked on a number of War Department morale and training films.

Mexican Unions In Clash on Rights

MEXICO CITY, March 20.—Another inter-union "war" is looming here with the start of production of features by the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, at Cuernavaca. Its rival, the Picture Production Workers Union, headed by "Cantinflas," charges that such activity is a violation of a ruling by ex-President Manuel Avila Camacho that the latter union confine itself to the making of newsreels and other shorts, giving the "Cantinflas" organization the right to make features.

CRI Union Bid to NLRB

The Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild has approached Confidential Reports, requesting recognition as the union for the checking company's home office employes. At a meeting between CRI management and SOPEG representatives it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the National Labor Relations Board for certification through an election.

E-K Promotes Kerr

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 20.—Donald C. Kerr, former operating chief of Eastman Kodak's war contracts division, has been appointed assistant manager of the company's San Francisco branch. J. R. Allendorf is the branch manager.

Hoffberg Gets Film

J. H. Hoffberg has acquired the French film, "Les Clandestins" from New Hemisphere Films for exclusive American release. The picture will open at the Old South Theatre in Boston on Wednesday.

Circuit Honors Its Quigley Contestants

CHICAGO, March 20.—Louis Nye, manager of the Hoosier Theatre, Whiting, Ind., has won a contest held by the Manta and Rose Circuit to determine which member of the circuit could win the most Quigley Showmanship Awards for the final quarter of 1946. Nye had eight mentions, one citation and one scroll of honor.

Nye was followed in the contest by John Misavice, of the Ritz Theatre, Berwyn, with eight mentions and two citations. Seventeen other M. and R. district and theatre managers participated.

Commented the circuit—which owns 29 theatres in Indiana and Illinois: "We have held this competition for Quigley Awards because they are the public recognition for good work accomplished." The circuit's statement commended its managers for the "extra work to prepare campaign books to send in to the Quigley Awards." It also noted that "the list of winners speaks for itself not only as to the effort expended, but also to the possibilities in smaller and subsequent run theatres."

Barrett Joins CBS

Halsey V. Barrett, charter member of the American Television Society and formerly in sales promotion and research with New York City radio stations, has been appointed promotion manager for CBS Television by David Frederick, CBS director of sales promotion and advertising. Barrett succeeds Harry Barnhart, resigned.

Anderson Back at Post

MINNEAPOLIS, March 20.—Art Anderson, Warner branch manager, who recently was granted a leave of absence for poor health, has resumed activity as head of the local exchange. During Anderson's absence, C. A. Jackson of the sales staff, was acting manager.

Hugh Prince Shifts

ATLANTA, March 19.—Hugh F. Prince, for the past 16 years theatre manager in Florida for Florida State Theatres, has been appointed by W. H. Snelson, president of Co-At-Co Theatres here as assistant and booker.

A PICTURE AUDIENCES WILL SEE AGAIN AND AGAIN is

Released thru UA

Hirliman Creditors to Get 100% Payment

Unsecured creditors of International Theatrical and Television Corp. and Film-Tel, Inc., both headed by George Hirliman, will receive full payment of claims against the corporations under a new plan set for filing in Federal District Court here within the next two weeks, a spokesman for Hirliman interests said yesterday. The 100 per cent arrangement supplants an earlier plan which called for 22½ per cent in cash in three months and another 10 per cent in notes payable at the end of a year.

The case has been pending for some time before Irwin Kurtz, referee in bankruptcy, and the new plan is said to spring from the fact that the companies' film assets are now sufficient to place it in a healthy financial condition.

A petition by Trans-American Films to cancel a contract made with Film-Tel in 1943 has been withdrawn following a settlement whereby Trans-American gets back three "Scattergood Baines" pictures and cancels royalties due from Film-Tel.

'World' to Astor Pictures

Astor Pictures has acquired distribution rights to "One World or None," a Philip Ragan short subject.

Co-Owner Product

(Continued from page 1)

New York Federal Court's anti-trust decision.

While the decree allows a company to give its product to houses in which it holds 95 per cent interests or more without bidding processes, specific provisions for partnership bids were not made.

Company lawyers interpret the decree as dictating bidding by a partner since operation otherwise is not set down as legal or otherwise. They make it clear, however, that future developments unforeseen might change their view.

Close to 1,500 theatres could be involved, mostly those operated by Paramount. In any case it is clear, however, that only when a competitive theatre requests bidding will the partly-owned house have to enter a bid for the product of its co-owner.

US 'News Magazine'

(Continued from page 1)

tion in 52 countries through U. S. embassies and consulates. Ament will supervise production, Harold Bonafield will edit, and Robert Youngson will be script editor. Direction will be handled by Jack Connolly, newsreel liaison for the State Department's international film division, and a former newsreel executive.

Distribution will be in 35 and 16mm., both to foreign theatres and schools. The format of the issue will consist of a section on cultural activities, one on sports, and a third on science, with the initial release to include the story of how writers, artists and craftsmen in Nyack, N. Y., joined to establish a community art center; Americans-at-play, skiing, skating, and bob-sledding in Sun Valley, Ida., and a science feature on how American scientists are "exploring" the sun and moon.

New Theatres . . .

COLUMBUS, O., March 20. — A survey indicates an unusually large number of drive-in theatres being built or contemplated in Ohio, many of which are expected to be in operation during this year. The list includes the following:

A 600-car theatre, the "Old Trail," is under construction between Zanesville and New Concord. Owners C. E. Hunrich, Caldwell, and Eay W. Waller, New Concord, report completion scheduled for May.

Clengman and Dennis of Dayton have started work on a 400-car theatre near Xenia, to be called the "Xenia Auto Inn." It is also expected to be in operation during May.

Theatres Enterprises, Inc., Cincinnati, will build one at nearby Woodlawn, work on which has been temporarily halted by an injunction suit filed by residents in the neighborhood who are protesting the project.

Dan Spiegel, Cincinnati, will open a 700-car theatre around July 1, near Le Sourdsville Lake, a summer resort located between Hamilton and Middletown.

Youngstown Drive-In Theatre Co. has been incorporated at Youngstown by Sam Greenberger, Cleveland, and Norbert Stern, Pittsburgh, to build and operate a new theatre on the outskirts of Youngstown, for which the contract has been awarded.

The Chakeres-Warner Theatre Co. at Springfield has purchased a 550-acre tract near that city for a 1,000-car theatre. A dance floor in front of the screen will be used for 30 minutes of dancing before initial showings.

A new theatre will be built near Mansfield, by Herbert Ochs, who operates a number of similar projects in the state.

At Galion, it is reported that a new drive-in is contemplated, for which plans are being prepared.

A 600-car theatre will be built at Marion, at a cost of $75,000, by H. E. Shock, of Lima, understood to represent a corporation operating similar theatres in various locations.

Interboro Sets $300,000 House at Elmont, L. I.

Interboro Circuit has purchased a site at Elmont, L. I., on which will be constructed a $300,000 theatre and shopping center. A zoning variation has been granted by the town of Hempstead to make the project possible.

The site consists of three parcels purchased for an undisclosed amount from the P. S. G. Realty Co.

Deny Theatre Application

CONCORD, N. H., March 20.—The application of Lucien Descoteaux, owner-operator of the Rex Theatre, Manchester, N. H., for the construction of a one-story theatre in East Manchester, has been denied by town officials due to a zoning ordinance. Descoteaux has appealed for a hearing to the board of adjustment. The theatre would cost $60,000.

New 900-Seat Eau Claire House Set for Easter

MINNEAPOLIS, March 20.—Sheldon Grengs' 900-seat New Hollywood, Eau Claire, Wis., is scheduled to open Easter Sunday.

The opening will represent the first time the town has had competition in 20 years, Minnesota Amusement Co. heretofore operating all Eau Claire houses. The circuit recently opened the 640-seat Cameo to add to its previous holdings at Eau Claire, comprising the O'Klare, Badger and State.

Plans to erect an open air theatre in Golden Valley, suburb of Minneapolis, received its first major setback when the board of directors of the village taxpayers association voted 4-4 on the project. The tie vote is regarded in effect a disapproval.

Central Shipping Sets Three New Branches

KANSAS CITY, March 20. — E. E. Jameson, president of the Central Shipping Bureau which has inspected and shipped film for distributors in Kansas City for the past 11 years, will set up similar district shipping agencies in Denver, St. Louis and Oklahoma City for National Film Distributors. National is scheduled to handle physical distribution of Selznick Releasing Organization.

Columbia-Shubert Trial

The $500,000 damage action instituted by Lee and Jacob Shubert and Trebuchs Realty Co. against Columbia Pictures in connection with that company's use of the name "Winter Garden" and depiction of scenes therein in "The Jolson Story," will go to trial on Monday in New York Supreme Court, here, with Justice James B. McNally presiding.

Knoxville House Sold

KNOXVILLE, March 20.—W. E. Dumbar has purchased the Broadway Theatre here from George L. Denton, owner of several theatres in this area, and will start operation at once. Dumbar, who also operates the Dawn, a large suburban house, plans to enlarge the Broadway.

Colmes and Levinson Form New Company

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—Independent producer Walter Colmes and Sally Levinson, former Warner executive, have announced formation of Somerset Pictures, Inc., a $3,000,000 producing company backed by Eastern capital.

Conn. Daylight Saving

HARTFORD, March 20. — The Connecticut legislature's judiciary committee has approved a bill which would allow the governor to establish daylight saving. At present, Connecticut operates on daylight saving only through custom and without legal recognition.

Purdy in New Post

HARTFORD, March 20.—Paul Purdy, former manager of the Lockwood and Gordon Webb Playhouse, Wethersfield, has been appointed manager of the Newington Theatre, Newington, Conn., operated by Kounaris and Tolis, succeeding Fred Condon, resigned.

Rice Sells to Williams

FARNAM, Neb., March 20.—The Farnam Theatre here has been sold by Dean Rice to Wayne Williams.

CBS Earned $3.37 Per Share in 1946

Columbia Broadcasting yesterday reported a net profit of $3.37 per share, compared with $2.51 per share in 1945. The increase is accounted for, it is said, by improved results of Columbia Recording, the company's record manufacturing subsidiary, whose net income increased from $196,899 in 1945 to $1,880,222 in 1946.

Net income of CBS for 1946 amounted to $5,795,896, against $5,345,641 for 1945. The latter figure includes "an extraordinary gain of $1,037,041 from the disposal in 1945 of station WBT.

3 Negro Films to Toddy

Three new Negro pictures will be released by Toddy Pictures through its own exchanges. Titles are: "What a Guy," "Mantan Runs for Mayor" and "Return of Mandy's Husband."

Johnston Interview

(Continued from page 1)

world" and the picture makers' "responsibility in foreign countries and here." This responsibility consists, he said, simply of furnishing good pictures "conforming to family taste standards, since the family unit is the bulwark of civilization."

Johnston said that an announcement concerning a successor to Byron Price, who resigned as MPA vice-president to join the United Nations, will be made "in three or four days," either from here or from Washington, to which he will return Monday to testify before a Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

The MPA president voiced optimism concerning theatre attendance in the period ahead, declaring that the nation needs about 5,000 new theatres "which will be built as rapidly as materials become available and as techniques for building outdoor theatres and portables are developed." Johnston expects this increase in theatres to result in greatly increased attendance over the next five years.

Johnston presided this morning over a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association of Motion Picture Producers. Price's successor was reportedly discussed.

20th's Net Soars

(Continued from page 1)

Theatre, Inc.

The 1946 net is equivalent to approximately $7.90 per share on the 2,756,462 shares of common stock outstanding at Dec. 28, after deducting dividends on the prior preferred and convertible preferred stock paid during the year. Common stock outstanding at Dec. 29, 1945, was 2,119,709 shares and the earnings for 1945, after deducting preferred dividends, were equal to $5.29 a share.

Gross income from sales and rentals of film and theatre receipts in 1946 is estimated at $190,300,000, compared to 1945's $178,211,889. The 1946 net before Federal taxes, minority interests and contingencies was $39,900,000, from which a $14,650,000 provision was made for Federal income taxes. In comparison, the profit before Federal taxes, etc., in 1945 was $37,121,126, from which $21,650,000 in Federal taxes was paid.

Albany Sees New 5% Tax Not Statewide

ALBANY, March 20.—The New York State bill authorizing large cities and counties to levy an additional five per cent amusement tax, now before Gov. Dewey, is unlikely to bring an amount anywhere near the $111,000,000 estimated by its proponents, legislators here declare.

To say to work effectively the new tax would have to be statewide, pointing out that some counties and cities not imposing the tax would draw heavy trade from nearby areas where the tax is levied.

Additionally, they reason, Southern counties will refrain from posting new taxation which would drive business into Pennsylvania.

Metropolitan Group to Meet Tuesday on Tax

The Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association will meet here on Tuesday to consider strategy to combat the New York amusement tax on a local basis.

Schofield Absorbed

Knickerbocker Productions, Inc., here has absorbed Schofield Productions, Inc., and expanded its facilities.

Universal Reelects

(*Continued from page* 1)

the board here yesterday.

The other officers include: Matthew J. Fox, executive vice-president; William A. Scully, John J. O'Connor and Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-presidents; Adolph Schimel, secretary; Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel; Samuel Machnovitch, treasurer and assistant secretary; Harold Brewster, studio comptroller and assistant treasurer; Eugene F. Walsh, comptroller and assistant treasurer; Margaret Sullivan, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer; Edward Mulh and Anthony J. Petti, assistant secretaries.

Reappointed to the executive committee were: Cowdin, chairman; Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, Preston Davie, Prutzman, Budd Rogers and Daniel M. Sheaffer.

The board declared a quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share on common stock, payable April 30 to stockholders of record on April 15.

Universal Bidding

(*Continued from page* 1)

Federal District Court, each division manager has been given freedom to exercise individual judgment regarding situations in his own territory. Fred Meyers, Eastern sales manager, and C. J. Feldman, Western sales manager, both were out of the city yesterday.

McCarthy reports that "I'll Be Yours" has been sold away from the Lucas and Jenkins circuit in two Georgia cities, going to the Rialto Theatre in Atlanta and the Weiss in Savannah. As previously reported, "The Egg and I" and "Song of Scheherazade" have been sold to the Home Theatre, Oklahoma City, in competition with Warner houses, while "Egg" has gone to the Manor, Charlotte, in competition with the Wilby-Kincey circuit.

Belgium Exhibitors Attack Percentages

By LOUIS QUIEVREUX

Brussels, March 14 (By Airmail).—Because Belgium exhibitors are again buying films on a percentage basis, rather than on a flat rental system, the cry has been raised that many are now losing money. In a roundabout way the Germans are responsible for this.

Before 1940, exhibitors obtained their films on a flat fee basis. If the feature turned out to be a hit, it meant a boom for the theatre-owner. When the Germans occupied Belgium, they imposed a new system, that of percentage, varying according to the film. The return of liberty did not mean a return to flat rentals. On the contrary, today percentages go as high as 55 and 70 per cent.

16 to Great Western

ATLANTA, March 20.—Great Western Pictures, headed by John W. Mangham will reissue 16 John Wayne Westerns, print deliveries to begin April 1. United States and Canadian rights, for both 35mm. and 16mm., have been purchased from Monogram Pictures, which owns the copyrights, and 16mm. distribution has been turned over to W. Wells Alexander of The Distributor's Group, Inc., who will act as selling agent.

Theatre Rejoins Allied

CHICAGO, March 20.—Jim Booth's Palace theatre in suburban Cicero, which resigned from Illinois Allied several months ago, because of alleged favoritism shown the Bartelstein Circuit's Annetta theatre in Cicero, has rejoined, according to Jack Kirsch, president. In addition, the Palace, which had never belonged to Illinois Allied's booking and buying group, has also joined the latter.

Rosener Buys Two

HOLLYWOOD, March 20. — Herbert Rosener Co., West Coast foreign film circuit, has acquired two San Francisco theatres, the Stage Door and Nob Hill, bringing the circuit's total to eight, four in San Francisco, and four in the Los Angeles area.

Decree Application

(*Continued from page* 1)

which will start Easter and will run 14 weeks. Today Skouras and his executive aides are conducting a similar meeting for Northern California personnel at San Francisco.

Skouras told the gathering here that company employes have received amounts equal to 25 per cent of the organization's final net profits during the past five years. "You theatre managers," he said, "are the backbone of National Theatres and FWC, and in your hands lies the future of the company. You are the greatest resource of this company."

Similar meetings will also be conducted by Skouras in Milwaukee, March 31; Denver, April 1; Seattle, April 3.

Chatham Resigns as Griffith Publicity Man

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 20.—Resignation of L. A. Chatham as public relations director of the Griffith Circuit was announced as a two-day meeting of the chain's 50 partners and managers closed tonight. Chatham gave no reason for his withdrawal from the circuit after 14 years. He said that he would take a long rest at his Tulsa home before announcing future plans.

Business sessions of the circuit meeting featured talks by H. J. Griffith, brother of circuit president L. C. Griffith, who is ill, Henry Griffing, executive vice-president, C. F. Motley, manager of operations, Harry Lowenstein, vice-president of Griffith's Consolidated Theatres, C. B. Akers, Charles R. Guthrie and other executives of the Griffith companies.

Reds Grab Film Patents

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Charging that Russia has obtained valuable patents in their German occupation zone, including patents for film and projection equipment, chairman J. Parnell Thomas of the House Un-American Activities Committee today said that he has evidence which he is dispatching to Secretary of State George Marshall in Moscow.

Video Group to Elect

The American Television Society has appointed a nominating committee of seven to select officer candidates for the annual election to be held at the first regular meeting in May. Appointees are: Richard Manville, chairman; A. U. Braunfeld, Frederick Kugel, R. B. Gamble, Herbert Taylor, Miriam Tulin and Bruce Robertson.

Model Films Starts

Model Films, Inc., headed by Robert Jenness and Nat Sobel, has set up headquarters at Long Island City, for the making of three-dimensional animated films for theatrical, television and commercial distribution.

'5th Avenue' Shown Apr. 1

HOLLYWOOD, March 20. — Roy Del Ruth's "It Happened on 5th Avenue" will be publicly shown for the first time on April 1, in 28 California houses of the Interstate Circuit.

Myers Charges

(*Continued from page* 1)

credited before the decree becomes effective," he said.

"As it is being administered, the system cannot possibly accomplish its purpose. The great circuits are being protected in their local monopolies and the only competition that is being stimulated is between independent exhibitors in order to raise film rentals," Myers charged.

He contended that there have been no offers which specify a minimum price, whether the terms are flat rental or otherwise, as required by the decree; that no data has been given by distributors on availability and clearance, if any, which will be granted for each run; that one distributor queries the exhibitor on whether the picture will play singly or as part of a double feature, and that the decree allows 15 days after receipt of distributors' notice in which to submit bids, although in one case called to the attention of Allied the exhibitor was allowed only 11 days.

Eagle-Lion Plans a 'Showcase' Here

Eagle-Lion is planning to secure a Broadway "showcase" here for its product as soon as the company establishes a film back-log of sufficient proportions, A. W. Schwalberg, vice-president and general sales manager, disclosed yesterday.

By the end of this month, the company's back-log will consist of "Lost Honeymoon," "Red Stallion" and "Repeat Performance." E.-L has four pictures in release at present.

'47 FM and Television Production Rises

WASHINGTON, March 20.—More radio and television sets were manufactured in January than in any month of 1946. Total figures supplied by the Radio Manufacturers Association put January production at 1,564,171, compared with 1,454,687 in December.

Swartz in 16mm. Field

MINNEAPOLIS, March 20.—Plans to establish a 16mm. non-theatrical exchange in Minneapolis are being completed by Don Swartz, head of the Independent Poster Exchange, and state rights distributor.

Swartz said that the 16mm. product which his new company will distribute will not compete in the 35mm. field. Swartz expects to have the new exchange in operation June 1, under management yet to be announced.

5 Companies Unite

(*Continued from page* 1)

"see how the court feels about the other defendants' request for bidding stays," according to a spokesman for the five larger companies. This indicates a modification of a plan for outright opposition to bidding stays, which some of them were reported to be considering several days ago. Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner's have not appealed from the New York court's bidding directive, while Paramount, which has appealed on that point, is asking no stay of the provision. Bidding is scheduled to become effective July 1.

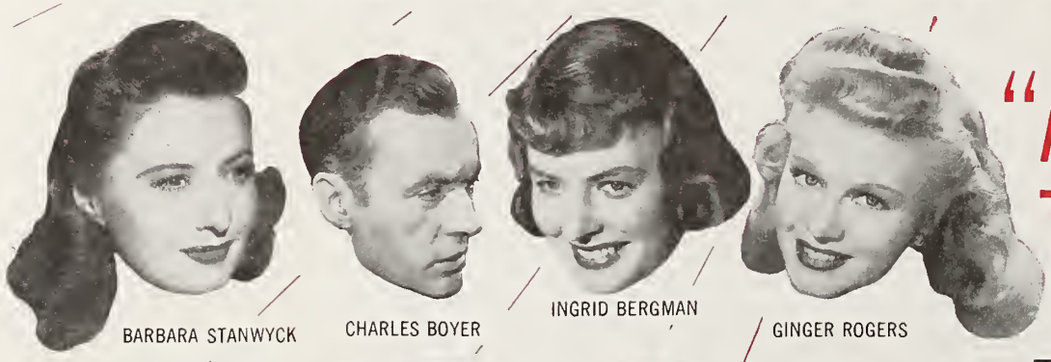
The request for the arbitration stay will be supported by the argument that to dissolve the system and then reestablish it, if the appeal is granted, would be a cumbersome and costly process. In addition, the defendants will contend that the removal of arbitration would open the way for costly, time-consuming suits.

The 31 arbitration tribunals and the appeal board are scheduled for liquidation on April 1 under the New York decree, except for the completion of cases filed before that date. Cases now are pending in 10 of the tribunals: Omaha, New Haven, Chicago, New Orleans, New York, St. Louis, Boston, Albany, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Milwaukee.

After April 1, if the stay is granted, the arbitrators would base their decisions on those clauses of the decree of last Dec. 31 which have not been assigned deferred effective dates, rather than on the 1940 consent decree, which has been abolished by the New York court.

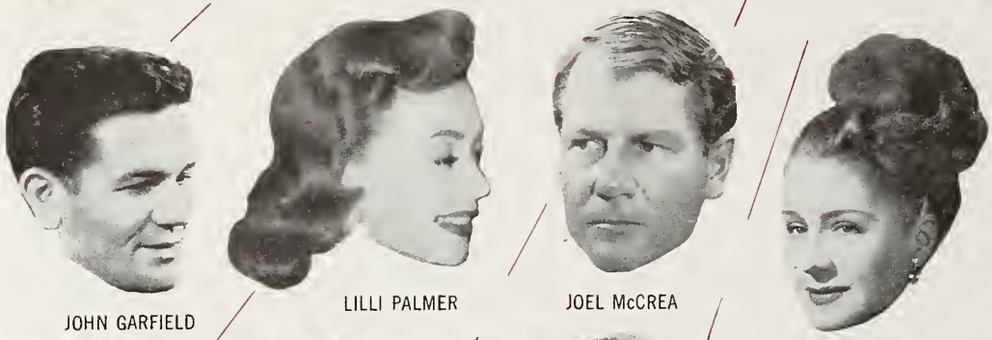
Happy Birthday ENTERPRISE

ONE YEAR OLD TODAY . . . COMPLETED AND READY TO PLAY . . .



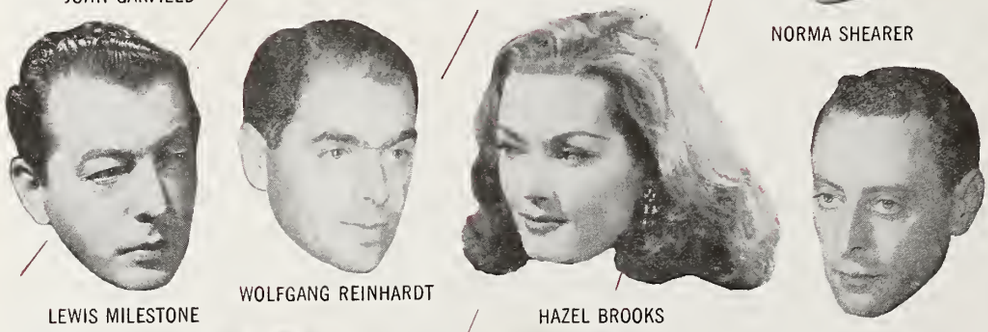
BARBARA STANWYCK — CHARLES BOYER — INGRID BERGMAN — GINGER ROGERS

"ARCH OF TRIUMPH"



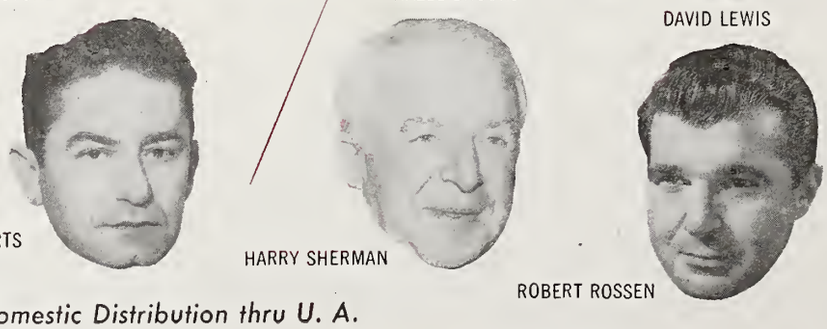
JOHN GARFIELD — LILLI PALMER — JOEL McCREA — NORMA SHEARER

"THE OTHER LOVE"



LEWIS MILESTONE — WOLFGANG REINHARDT — HAZEL BROOKS — DAVID LEWIS

"BODY AND SOUL"



R. B. ROBERTS — HARRY SHERMAN — ROBERT ROSSEN

RELEASED

"RAMROD"

Domestic Distribution thru U. A.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 57 · NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1947 · TEN CENTS

Would Limit Arbitration To Clearance

Plea to Stay Dissolution Set for Hearing Friday

The industry arbitration system, if preserved by the U. S. Supreme Court pending the outcome of appeals from the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit, will act only on clearance disputes during the interim, it developed here Friday upon the dispatch of a stay application to the high court in Washington by Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner's.

The theatre-owning defendants ask the high tribunal to retain only that part of the system which relates to clearance disputes arising under the

(*Continued on page* 13)

MPA Dinner May 8; Committee Is Named

May 8 has been set as the date for the dinner observing the 25th anniversary of the Motion Picture Association and its predecessor, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of

(*Continued on page* 14)

Chaplin's "Verdoux," First at UA House

"Monsieur Verdoux," Charles Chaplin's first since "The Dictator," in 1940, probably will open at the Broadway Theatre, 53rd St. and Broadway, as the first picture under United Artists tenancy. "Beggar's Holiday," stage play, will close there on April 1, at which time UA will take possession. If the Chaplin film plays there first, it will probably open about April 6.

According to current plans, "Carnegie Hall" will be the second UA attraction at the house, and "Arch of Triumph" the third.

UA's board of directors on Friday ratified the deal whereby the company acquires the Broadway from the Shuberts for 18 months, with options.

French Will Build Here

Because exhorbitant production costs in France have dangerously jeopardized film profits in that country, a number of French producing companies are about to launch what is described as a large-scale line-up of "showcases" in the U. S. Already Pathe Cinema and France's Gaumont have purchased properties in New York, where they expect to begin building in the near future.

Gaumont recently concluded a deal for property opposite the Little Carnegie Theatre on 57th Street, here, and Pathe Cinema has purchased a lot on 58th Street near Park. Gaumont's M. Sallard and Pathe Cinema's Andrien Remauge are due to arrive here shortly from Paris to begin building arrangements.

Balaban Heads 2nd UJA Appeal Group

Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures, has been appointed national chairman of the motion picture division of the United Jewish Appeal, by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the drive. Balaban was also recently appointed chairman of the general campaign for Metropolitan New York.

Balaban announces that a national film committee will be organized to develop the maximum cooperation of the industry in each of the local community drives on behalf of the UJA.

(*Continued on page* 14)

Express Rate Boost Would Affect Films

Washington, March 23.—The Railway Express Agency, seeking $69,000,000 additional annual revenue, has asked the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to increase express charges on all material it transports, including motion picture films, accessories and equipment.

The increases requested vary between different points. Between the West Coast and New York the increase would rise from $13.70 to $14.40 per 100 pounds.

Solon Objects to US Film Activity

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Congressman Frank Keefe, chairman of the appropriations sub-committee on Federal security appropriations, criticized Government production of films in a recent closed hearing when the Office of Education film budget was considered, testimony made public Friday revealed.

J. Hunt, a coordinator of the office, asked for $7,500 for production, purchase and distribution of educational films. The Office of Education is presently working on a visual education program in cooperation with the Motion Picture Association.

Hunt testified that his office produced one film last year. Keefe said that he wanted to make certain that the Government does not enter commercial film production.

"The Egg and I"

[*Universal-International*] — Hilarious Farm Woes

THE big parade to the bookstalls for Betty MacDonald's rib-tickling story of a city girl who finds herself transferred by marriage to a turbulent life among the chicken coops is virtually certain to be followed by a big parade to the box-office for Chester Erskine's and Fred F. Finklehoffe's top-notch screen version. It has Claudette Colbert at her bewildered comedy best, Fred MacMurray as a near-perfect foil and a long cast of outstanding actors to represent the entire countryside in stalwart support. It handles familiar plot values with zest and scope and frequently with freshness. It will click.

The emphasis is on slapstick, but slapstick that seems natural, even when it goes on and on. This gradually gives way to some pretty serious, heart-warming adjustments for the couple who want to wrest a living out of the soil rather than depend on the brokerage business. The hillfolk they meet appear first as caricatures, and thus are good for many an extra laugh dividend, but gradually the audience comes to see them in their correct human focus.

A simple, central story furnishes the framework. MacMurray, having

(*Continued on page* 14)

Ascap Moves To Increase Theatre Fees

No 'Arbitrary' Action Will Be Taken: Paine

By GENE ARNEEL

A complete revision of its theatre music license tax schedule is contemplated by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, John G. Paine, general manager, reveals.

Paine said the plan is now in the study stage. It will not be advanced "arbitrarily," Paine said, explaining that theatremen would be consulted in the hope of achieving an "equitable formula."

Indicating that an increase in music license fees is in prospect, Paine said the present rates have been unchanged since 1933.

"The basis of payment is unfair today," Paine said. Close to 16,000 thea-

(*Continued on page* 14)

Reports 22 Nations Invoke Film Curbs

WASHINGTON, March 23.—American pictures continue to meet trade barriers in 22 nations and resurgent nationalism and dollar stringency are the two chief adverse forces operating against the export of films produced in this country, the international division of the Motion Picture Association reported on Friday.

Gerald M. Mayer, managing director of the division, said in his annual report that the barriers are contributing to "the indescribably complex methods of doing business abroad."

He disclosed that the MPA is form-

(*Continued on page* 13)

Grainger Sets Three Republic Meetings

A series of three Republic regional sales meetings, in New York, Chicago, and at the company's Hollywood studios, is announced by James R. Grainger, executive vice-president in charge of sales.

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., company, president, will address each session, which will be attended by district and

(*Continued on page* 14)

Personal Mention

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner Brothers' advertising-publicity head, is due in New York today from the Coast.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON was scheduled to fly from Hollywood to San Francisco yesterday morning and to take off for Washington today. JOHNSTON's aides, JOYCE O'HARA and EDWARD CHEYFITZ, left for Washington at the weekend.

•

RICHARD WALSH, IATSE president, was slated to leave New York for Mexico City over the weekend for a week's stay.

•

JACK HUNT, manager of the Rialto and Outdoor theatres, Chicago, will arrive here today for a week's visit.

•

HENRI ELMAN, head of Capital Film Co., Chicago, underwent an abdominal operation there recently.

•

JACK H. LEVIN, Confidential Reports vice-president, has returned here from Cleveland.

•

VERN CALDWELL, publicity head for Walt Disney Productions, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

•

CHARLES E. KESSNICH, M-G-M district manager with headquarters in Atlanta, is vacationing in Miami.

•

WILLIAM GOETZ, Universal-International production head, left New York for California on Friday.

•

ZELMA BROOKOV of Warners' Eastern talent department is in Palm Beach.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, U-I Western division sales manager, is expected to return here today from the Coast.

•

JOHN BALABAN has returned to Chicago from La Quinta, Cal.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, Central sales manager of 20th-Fox, is in Florida.

3 Cagney Films to Cost $7,900,000

Starting with William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life," which will start on April 14, William Cagney has set a budget of $7,900,000 for the three productions slated by his company in 1947, United Artists has announced here. Henry Koster, in his first freelance assignment, will direct the film, which reportedly will cost $2,300,000.

Second on the agenda is Thorne Smith's comedy, "The Stray Lamb," budgeted at $2,100,000. Richard Wallace has been signed to direct on a July starting date.

With a $3,500,000 budget, the film version of Adria Locke Langley's "A Lion Is in the Streets," will be Cagney's costliest venture since he became an independent producer. James Cagney will star in all three.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

COMPETITIVE bidding has achieved large-scale proportions in the Chicago exchange area already, MOTION PICTURE DAILY's recent articles on the subject having revealed in some detail just how large. Four of the eight major distributor defendants subject to the New York court decree are inviting and accepting competitive bids on their product in many situations in the territory.

The initial reaction of independent exhibitors there to the new film buying method is reported to be very favorable.

•

Illinois and Indiana exhibitors bidding for the product of Paramount, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and M-G-M in Chicago were quoted as expressing pleasure over the mere fact that they are permitted to bid for a run of product that heretofore they regarded as being out of their reach. Even though they still can't get, by bidding, the product or the run they would like, it's something just to be able to compete for it, the exhibitors were quoted as saying.

In many cases, however, independents in the territory have prevailed over competing circuit houses in bidding and have obtained new product and new runs thereby. Bidding even is credited with bringing about the settlement of an anti-trust suit, inasmuch as through it the plaintiff obtained some of the product his suit complained he could not get. In consequence, he is reported to have decided to withdraw his court action.

•

Distributors in the Chicago area also are viewing competitive bidding with an increasingly favorable attitude as experience with the system grows. Some of them were reported to be of the opinion that many exhibitors will be "burned" in making rash bids for product and runs in consequence of overenthusiasm or unfamiliarity with the new system.

Such men believe, however, that after the first flush of newness has worn off and practical experience takes over there will be a decline in the demand for and popularity of competitive bidding. One distributor, familiar with the Chicago area, estimated that only 15 or 16 pictures per year could be obtained by the average exhibitor through competitive bidding, apart from the product which would go to the exhibitor normally, on a basis which would prove profitable to both exhibitor and distributor.

For the small subsequent run exhibitor that could be from five to eight weeks of profitable operation.

If that distributor is correct in his guess, competitive bidding will be no boon to the little fellow no matter how much pleasure he gets out of bidding.

• •

Ascap officials have confirmed earlier reports that an increase in its music license fees for theatres is in work.

In addition, it can be reported that there is increasing sentiment within Ascap for the collection of the public performance fee from distributors, rather than theatres. This sentiment apparently still is unresolved. There appears to be no definitive plan in existence for shifting the fee to the distributors, but there has been some discussion of it.

•

The consensus of those who have discussed it is that a license to exhibit properly should include the music performance fee. The present Ascap fee ranges upward from 10 cents per seat per year in the smallest theatres, with increases keyed to seating capacity. Ascap theatre licenses are for one year periods, cancellable on 30 days notice of nonrenewal. They produce about $1,500,000 for Ascap annually.

• •

Throwing some minor light on the guessing as to when the U. S. Supreme Court is likely to get around to hearing appeals from the New York Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust suit is the present indeterminate status of the government's appeal from the Oklahoma City Federal Court decision in the Griffith Amusement Co. anti-trust suit.

The Griffith appeal was filed about three months ago and hasn't yet found its way onto the Supreme Court calendar. When it does get on it will be at the bottom, naturally, and will have to work up to the top.

Then take into consideration that the time for filing appeals in the New York case does not expire until April 1 and that the high court customarily adjourns in May until October, and you may get some vague idea of when the New York appeals will be heard and when, some time later, they will be decided.

Newsreel Parade

THE last round in Georgia's governors' battle is highlighted in all current newsreels. Also reported are events in Greece, England, India, South Africa, Italy and Palestine. Novelty items revolve around Maurice Chevalier, feline activities and children's feats. A variety of sports are also included. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 59—Battle Georgia's governors ends as Thompson is ruled the victor. Violence in India. Federal agents make narcotics haul. British princesses in spotlight. Juan T. Tripp, aviation executive, receives award. "It's the cats," says Lew Lehr about cats in the news. Sports: art of curling, dog racing in Alaska, horse racing in Italy.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 257—Natives burn towns in India riots. Georgia high court settles the battle of the governors. Report from Palestine. Record floods in England. Spotlight on British princesses. Huge dope ring broken up. Sports: Italian horse fair, Maurice Chevalier in boxing workout.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 60—Army speeds jet pilot training. Floods in England. "MPs" clean up in Tokyo. Thompson wins battle of governors in Georgia. Federal agents make $1,147,500 narcotics haul. Talking parrot wows Broadway.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 62—Thompson wins governors' battle in Georgia. Greeks welcome Truman speech. Nazi Gen. Kesselring on trial in Venice. Eleven-year-old "GI." Refugees flee grounded ship. Princess Elizabeth in limelight on tour. Maurice Chevalier and French boxer Cerdan in laugh bout.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 23—Crowds parade in Athens to thank U. S. for aid. U. S. mission collects data on Greek border strife. Paul Porter and Ambassador McVeigh return here from Greece. Talmadge ousted in Georgia. Motor-driven inflatable rubber boat tested by Army. Youngest auto driver. "Small fry" fashion show. "Pee-wee" golfer. Maurice Chevalier boxes. Show kids enjoy winter sports.

Lesser Leaves Roxy Theatre on April 8

Irving M. Lesser, associate general manager of the Roxy Theatre, has resigned that post effective April 8. Lesser will leave for Hollywood shortly, prior to announcing future plans.

Lesser was one of the leading exhibitor participants in the industry's war activities and other civic projects. He was New York chairman for several War Loan drives, Red Cross drives, March of Dimes campaigns and other industrywide enterprises. He was also active in the formation of the American Theatres Association and the Motion Picture Foundation.

Orphan Luncheon Today

Hollywood stars and industry, military and civic leaders will be guests at an industry "Greek War Orphans Appeal" luncheon today at the Hotel Astor. On the luncheon committee are Ned Depinet, Jack Cohn, S. H. Fabian, Harry Kalmine, Sol Schwartz, Harry Brandt, Ted Gamble, Tom Connors, Robert Coyne, Ben Serkowich, S. Barret McCormick, Charles Schlaifer, Sam Shain, Fred Schwartz, Joseph R. Vogel, Sam Rinzler, Ralph Pielow, Max Cohen and Ben Abner.

Maurice Chevalier will also attend.

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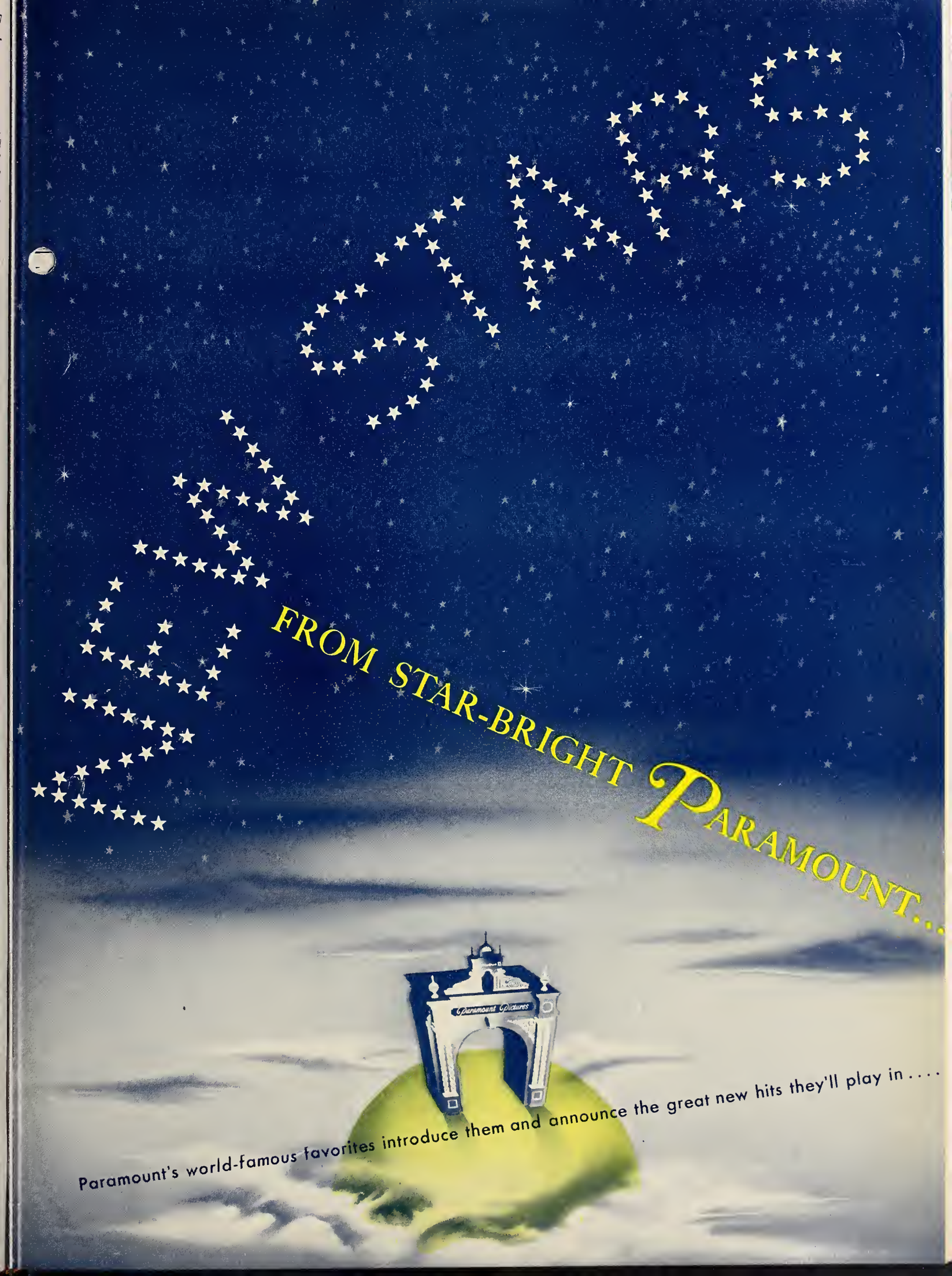
FROM STAR-BRIGHT PARAMOUNT...
Paramount Pictures
Paramount's world-famous favorites introduce them and announce the great new hits they'll play in . . . .

BING CROSBY, whose greatest hit of all will be "The Emperor Waltz," welcomes

WANDA

Hendrix

"Here's a lovely newcomer whose beauty and talent add up to—well, I'd say roughly ten million dollars! You'll see her soon—play her soon—love her soon in her picture with Barry Fitzgerald, Joan Caulfield, and me:

'WELCOME STRANGER'"

ALAN LADD, whom you'll get next in "Calcutta," says a word about

WILLIAM

Holden

"He's been *Lieutenant* Holden, U. S. Air Force, until recently—but now you can call him Mister! Or better yet, you can soon put his name in lights again for he resumes his meteoric career in 'Dear Ruth' and

'BLAZE OF NOON'"

BOB HOPE, star of your Easter picture, "My Favorite Brunette," makes a pitch for his favorite starlet

OLGA

San Juan

"Boys, step up and ogle Olga! She's from Brooklyn, fellas—not from the hill by the same name. But she's made history from the Copacabana floor show to 'Blue Skies.' You lucky guys will get her soon in

'VARIETY GIRL'"

VERONICA LAKE, so alluring in "Saigon," sees stardom ahead for

MACDONALD

Carey

"The Marine has landed—back in Hollywood—after a long absence overseas! You played Mac's last hit, 'Wake Island'—and you'll surely want to play his new one. It's the gay, romantic, amusing comedy

'SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING'"

DOROTHY LAMOUR pauses on "The Road To Rio" to say a word about

BILLY

De Wolfe

"He wears proudly Uncle Sam's discharge emblem—and his first postwar hit was 'Blue Skies.' Everybody's talking about his great comedy routines in that picture—so everybody's waiting for his appearance with Betty Hutton in

'THE PERILS OF PAULINE'"

In Technicolor

BARRY FITZGERALD, "Easy Come, Easy Go" star, gives you a girl who's easy to go for

JOAN

Caulfield

"In 'Welcome Stranger,' she plays with two lucky lads—Crosby and Fitzgerald by name. And prettier she is than in 'Blue Skies' and 'Monsieur Beaucaire.' It'll be a bit of heaven playdating her in 'Welcome Stranger,' then in

'DEAR RUTH'"

BETTY HUTTON, star of "The Perils of Pauline," introduces a bad man who's good . . .

HOWARD
Da Silva

"To Broadway he was Jud in 'Oklahoma'! To me he's Gafferty in 'Blaze of Noon.' To many fans he's the cruel captain in 'Two Years Before The Mast.' But his most memorable role of all will be in Cecil B. DeMille's

'UNCONQUERED'"

In Technicolor

LIZABETH SCOTT—now at work on Hal Wallis' "I Walk Alone," sees star-glory ahead for

WENDELL
Corey

"Hal Wallis has a flair for recognizing talent. He spotted Wendell at once...on the stage in 'Dream Girl.' Wendell's wonderful! I *know* for I've worked with him now in two Wallis productions, 'Desert Fury' and

'I WALK ALONE'"

BARBARA STANWYCK, who is sensational in "California," has a sensational new star for you . . .

BURT

Lancaster

"When Burt played on Broadway, seven studios wanted him but Hal Wallis got him. His first loan-out was to Uncle Sam's 5th Army, his second to his smash screen debut in 'The Killers.' Now he's in Hal Wallis' 'I Walk Alone' and

'DESERT FURY'"

In Technicolor

WILLIAM BENDIX wants you to know a young star who worked with him in "Blaze of Noon"

STERLING

Hayden

"It's a thrill to welcome Sterling back from war duty. He's a good guy—and, I want to add, a great actor. One of the few who ever hit the top after just 2 pictures —'Virginia' and 'Bahama Passage.' He's really got something for the girls in

'BLAZE OF NOON'"

DOROTHY LAMOUR, who is Bob Hope's "Favorite Brunette," predicts big things for

JOHN Lund

"John's romantic double role in 'To Each His Own' was one of last year's most exciting 'first picture' performances. Since then he's had 3 important film assignments, and his next appearance will be opposite Betty Hutton in

'THE PERILS OF PAULINE'"

In Technicolor

SONNY TUFTS, great in "Blaze of Noon," nominates a Star of Tomorrow

MARY Hatcher

"I liked Mary so much in 'Our Hearts Were Growing Up' that I went to hear her sing the lead in 'Oklahoma!' No wonder Paramount recalled her to play the title role in the big, all-star musical event

'VARIETY GIRL'"

RAY MILLAND, coming soon in the romantic drama, "The Imperfect Lady," star-gazes and sees

MONA

Freeman

"I've been interested in Mona ever since I watched her one day doing a 'bit' in 'Till We Meet Again.' And now I'm ready to wager that she'll be a star of first-line importance after

'DEAR RUTH'"

DIANA LYNN, now before the camera in "The Sainted Sisters," likes the smile and songs of

ROGER

Dann

"He's the picture of continental charm—this new star from France—who *isn't* married! Hero of the Maquis, idol of the Paris stage, sensation of New York's La Martinique, you'll see him soon in

'VARIETY GIRL'"

WILLIAM DEMAREST, coming soon in "The Perils of Pauline," is putting on a ballyhoo for

DE FOREST Kelley

"Step in a little closer, friends! Meet the star of 'Fear in the Night,' the surprise hit the whole trade is talking about. Next he will have the choice hero-role in the big 36-star musical

'VARIETY GIRL'"

BOB HOPE sneaked back from "The Road To Rio" for the last word about . . .

VIRGINIA Welles

"Virginia *is* the last word, folks. Blonde hair, beautiful figure . . . I could go on but I know you're thinking only of business. So I'll be brief. Drop what's on your mind or on your lap. And date her for sure in

DEAR RUTH'"

Paramount

always

THE STAR COMPANY

WILLIAM BENDIX
EDDIE BRACKEN
PHYLLIS CALVERT
MACDONALD CAREY
JOAN CAULFIELD
WENDELL COREY*
BING CROSBY
ROLAND CULVER
ROBERT CUMMINGS*
CASS DALEY
ROGER DANN
HOWARD DA SILVA
DON DeFORE*
WILLIAM DEMAREST
BILLY DE WOLFE
DOUGLAS DICK*
MARLENE DIETRICH
OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND
KIRK DOUGLAS*
FRANK FAYLEN
VIRGINIA FIELD
BARRY FITZGERALD
MONA FREEMAN
PAULETTE GODDARD
MARY HATCHER
STERLING HAYDEN
WANDA HENDRIX
WILLIAM HOLDEN
BOB HOPE
BETTY HUTTON
CECIL KELLAWAY
DeFOREST KELLEY
PATRIC KNOWLES
ALAN LADD
VERONICA LAKE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
BURT LANCASTER*
JOHN LUND
DIANA LYNN
RAY MILLAND
KRISTINE MILLER*
KATINA PAXINOU
ROBERT PRESTON
MIKHAIL RASUMNY
PHILIP REED
GEORGE REEVES
ANN RICHARDS*
GEORGE RIGAUD*
GAIL RUSSELL
OLGA SAN JUAN
LIZABETH SCOTT*
BARBARA STANWYCK*
SONNY TUFTS
MURVYN VYE
VIRGINIA WELLES
ARLEEN WHELAN

*Under contract to Hal Wallis Productions

Wolff, Votion Here For Product Talks

RKO Radio's production plans in England will be the subject of talks scheduled to be held here with Ned E. Depinet, RKO executive vice-president, and Phil Reisman, foreign operations head, by Robert E. Wolff, the company's managing director in the United Kingdom, Wolff said here Friday upon his arrival on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*. Accompanied by Jack W. Votion, RKO's foreign studio representative, Wolff added that they would remain in New York for about 10 days before heading for the Coast. They plan to return to England in May, after two months in the U. S.

Also among the passengers was Arnold Pressburger, who disclosed that he is seeking an American actress to appear opposite George Sanders in "Then and Now," Pressburger's forthcoming production for J. Arthur Rank. The production is budgeted at approximately $2,000,000, Pressburger said.

Of the European scene, Pressburger observed that the economic situation is so uncertain that it is difficult to judge the financial resources necessary for production. Budgetary estimates fluctuate very rapidly, he added. After completion of his current obligations to Rank, he expects to return to the U. S., where his plans include production of "Last Year's Snow."

Leo Samuels, assistant to William Levy, who is international sales chief for Disney Productions, said he returned to New York after two months abroad to set up release schedules for Disney product in countries "blacked out" by the war. France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and England were on his itinerary. In those countries, he indicated, particularly in France and Italy, Disney films will be shown for the first time in several years.

With a backlog that goes back to "Pinocchio," he pointed out, the principal difficulty in arranging release schedules abroad derives from the technical hurdle of having to dub pictures in some of the countries in which they are to be shown and then shipping them back to America for Technicolor processing.

Others who arrived on the ship Friday were Reuben Rosenberg, assistant production manager for RKO's "The White Tower," and Corinne Calvert, French film star. Jock Lawrence, American representative of the Rank Organization, who was originally scheduled to return, cancelled his departure in order to visit France with Arthur B. Krim, president of Eagle-Lion. They plan to return to the U.S. by plane this week.

Parade, Barbecue at RKO Kansas Opening

LIBERAL, Kan., March 23.—A four-mile-long street parade, featuring 12 bands, indians, soldiers, cowboys and cowgirls and a train of stage coaches and covered wagons, will usher in the world premiere of RKO Radio's "Trail Street" here on Tuesday. More than 50,000 persons from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are expected to participate in a huge barbecue.

WE Names Whitfield

Harold B. Whitfield, patent attorney for Western Electric, has been appointed general patent attorney for the company effective immediately. He succeeds the late Edgar W. Adams.

$90,000 in 1947 for N.Y. Censor Board

Albany, N. Y., March 23.—An appropriation of $60,670, plus $14,911 for maintenance and operation expenses is listed for the motion picture division of the New York State Education Department in the state budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1. However, with general salary adjustments, already approved by the legislature, the final figure for employe costs probably will be 25 per cent higher. This would raise that phase of the appropriation to about $75,000, and the over-all sum to approximately $90,000.

Build 340 Theatres In Japan in Year

Film theatres in Japan now number 1,477, representing an increase of 340 since Jan. 1, 1946, according to the Motion Picture Association's Tokyo office. About 210 of the new outlets are old theatres repaired and reconstructed from the damage of war, the balance representing new construction.

Despite the brisk reconstruction activity, the number of theatres now in operation in Japan is 300 shy of the prewar total of 1,900, MPA reports. On the basis of Japan's 73,000,000 population, there is now only one theatre for every 40,000 people.

Even if 1947 construction keeps pace with that of the previous year, the additional number of houses, it is pointed out, will only partially alleviate the acute theatre overcrowding which Jap municipal authorities concede is a serious fire hazard and disease spreader.

'New Orleans' Premiere

Mayor D. S. Morrison of New Orleans, and the city administration have indicated that they will give active support to the staging of an elaborate world premiere for Jules Levey's "New Orleans" when it opens in that city on April 26, United Artists announces here. Hollywood personalities and exponents of jazz will attend. The film is set for the Saenger Theatre.

Film Curbs

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing an international information center in Hollywood to be staffed by experts whose advice will be available to producers so that scripts may be considered in relation to the effects of the film on foreign audiences.

This step is in line with MPA's effort to send abroad only those films which portray the true American way of life.

Mayer said universal interest in American films overseas continues. "The scarcity of dollar exchange has become more apparent during the past year than ever before. Coupled with this is the desire of many countries to create or enlarge their own motion picture industry," Mayer stated.

Describing the type of barriers now being encountered by the industry, Mayer cited excessive import duties, internal tax measures, quota laws, discriminatory theatre taxes, remittance taxes, government monopolies and theatre combinations.

Boston Tribunal in Clearance Award

The Boston tribunal of the industry's arbitration system has reduced the number of complaints pending to five with the issuance of an award cutting the 14-day clearance formerly held by the Colonial and Olympia theatres in Portsmouth, N. H., to one day over the Harbor Theatre in York Harbor, Me.

Defendants in the complaint, which was filed by Lloyd H. Bridgham, operator of the Harbor Theatre, were Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers. Allied Theatre Co., operator of the Colonial and Olympia, was the intervenor.

Faced with liquidation after the end of this month under the Federal anti-trust decree, unless the U. S. Supreme Court approves appeals by five distributor-defendants to save the system, the motion picture tribunals, 10 of which are now active, have 23 complaints pending. The Boston tribunal, with its five cases, has the largest number. In addition, two appeals are being processed in Boston and one in Milwaukee.

'IA' Denies Threat to Close Eagle-Lion

Charges that the IATSE had threatened to close the Eagle-Lion studio in Hollywood unless Bryan Foy, executive producer, discharged Oscar Schatte, a supervisor of carpenters, were denied here at the weekend by Richard F. Walsh, "IA" international president. Schatte recently testified before the House Labor Committee in Washington that his life was endangered by parties to the jurisdictional dispute at issue in the current studio strike, inferring that he feared harm at the hands of "IA" members. Schatte's action was taken to "bolster up the dying morale" of the striking Conference of Studio Unions, according to Walsh.

Settlement Plan Offered

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—"Tidings," an official Catholic publication, has printed a five-point formula for settling the studio strike drawn up by the Reverends John Devlin and Thomas Coogan at the request of Archbishop John J. Cantwell.

Herbert Sorrell, Conference of Studio Unions president, calls the terms completely acceptable. Producer officials had no immediate comment.

Variety Convention Publicists Named

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—Sherrill Corwin, publicity chairman, has signed Hollywood Publicity Associates to work under his direction on the 11th Annual Variety Clubs' international convention, to be held at the Ambassador Hotel, here, May 14-17.

James Campbell has been assigned by James R. Luntzel, HPA co-ordinator, to serve as liaison between Variety and the HPA. Campbell will establish offices in the Orpheum Theatre Building and work in co-ordination with Corwin and his assistants, Seymour Peiser and Robert Kesner.

Variety Meeting Today

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—Charles P. Skouras has called a meeting of Variety Club Tent No. 25 for tomorrow to discuss convention plans.

Charity Group Here Headed by Raftery

At the request of Bishop Thomas E. Molloy, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, Edward C. Raftery, president of United Artists, will serve again as chairman of the Bishop's Committee of the Laity for Charity in that borough. Others on the committee are Gene Buck, Edward C. Dowden, James Mulvey and John Murphy. Under Raftery's chairmanship the amusement division topped all other groups in last year's drive.

Goldwyn Champions Self-Regulation

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.—Samuel Goldwyn spoke for self-regulation by producers over ABC's national network from here on Saturday on the initial broadcast of the "Our Town Speaks" series. Goldwyn said, "I believe in the good sense and good taste of the American public. They will not support films not in good taste as they do the ones that are."

Githens Host to Press

"Duties of a Secretary," a three-reeler produced by National Educational Films, was screened at the Monte Carlo restaurant, here, on Friday, in conjunction with a trade press luncheon. W. French Githens, president of National, was host.

Arbitration Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

1940 consent decree, but add that "the arbitrators in making their decisions will obviously follow" the clearance principles laid down by the New York court's decree of last Dec. 31.

If granted, the stay will give new life to the 31 arbitration tribunals and the AAA appeal board, which the New York court has ordered liquidated as of April 1 except for the disposition of cases filed prior to that time.

While the jurisdiction of the arbitrators at present extends beyond clearance, about 90 per cent of the cases have centered around that issue. Under the anti-trust suit decree, the burden of proof of reasonable clearance is placed on the distributors.

Hearing on the arbitration stay, along with Columbia's, Universal's and United Artists' requests for a stay of competitive bidding and other decree features, will be held in Washington by Justice Stanley F. Reed next Friday.

The Department of Justice will oppose the arbitration stay, according to a Washington D. of J. spokesman, who said the Government is not against a compulsory arbitration system *per se*, but that the enforcement of the final court judgment should be left to the Department.

The Government is understood to be planning to oppose the bidding stays also, but there are indications that the American Theatres Association and the Confederacy of Southern Associations may seek to aid in postponing the official start of the competitive system beyond July 1. These two exhibitor groups have appealed from the New York court's denial of their petition to intervene in opposition to bidding. Thurman Arnold, of Washington, ATA counsel, and Robert Barton of Richmond, CSA counsel, both will be in New York today for conferences on further steps in behalf of their clients.

THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF STORY, MUSIC AND BOXOFFICE

Released thru UA

"The Egg and I"

(Continued from page 1)

chosen his calling while caught up in the toils of war, waits until his wedding night to tell Miss Colbert they are to be caught up in the toils of a tumble-down farm. It continues to tumble and leak and hit back with all the contrariness of inanimate objects for months after they arrive. The little woman struggles to play up to her husband and live up to the challenge at hand, but she comes to hate the old stoves and the eggs she is obliged to gather.

MORE serious, she gives way to a senseless obsession that her man will be stolen by the wealthy, chic, competent divorcee (Louise Allbritton) in the flourishing place down the road. Indeed, it looks as if that is going to happen, just as the wife learns she is on the verge of motherhood. And, to make matters worse, most of the couple's rural hopes are wiped out by a forest fire. So the disillusioned farmerette gives up and flees alone to her parents' city home but finds, to her amazement, that she can no longer enjoy soft beds or sleep late in the morning and that the world is empty without the simple guy she loves. Therefore, after the baby is born, she goes back—to discover that he has managed to buy the big neighboring farm (which was all he ever wanted of its owner) and is waiting impatiently for the happy ending.

Woven into the central story are several delicious others involving the neighbors. Percy Kilbride, Marjorie Main and their tremendous brood of children represent farm life at its primitive ebb. Their eldest son, Richard Long, wants to go to college, and this Miss Colbert arranges—by slipping one of the woman's quilts into competition at the county fair, where first prize furnishes the tuition money. Smaller but equally choice plot threads concern Billy House, a colorful peddler who never gives up making a sale, and Donald MacBride, a sour-faced egg buyer who thinks and thinks before making a purchase.

SEVERAL scenes lift the continuous fun well out of the merely workmanlike comedy class. This is especially true of a community dance where Miss Colbert struggles to trip the heavy fantastic with all the male caricatures from miles around, including two stiff-legged Indians.

Near the end is a moving sub-climax—tried, true and always reliable—in which the neighbors, rounded up by Sheriff Samuel S. Hinds, arrive with lumber, tractors, stock, foodstuffs and good strong muscles to get the burned-out chicken farm started again.

The screenplay by producers Erskine and Finklehoffe, while continuously transparent, is attuned to the material in hand, and Erskine's direction wisely discards subtlety for pace and sharpness of screen portraiture. Eggs often are a doubtful risk, in restaurant or henhouse, but Universal has drawn a good one.

Running time, 108 minutes. General audience classification. April release.

TOM LOY

'Time' to Park April 5

Universal-International's "Time Out of Mind" will open for a pre-release, reserved-seat, advanced admission price run at the Park Avenue Theatre, here, on April 5. Two performances will be given daily and three on Sundays. The company has not as yet set a general release date for the picture.

MPA Dinner May 8

(Continued from page 1)

America. It will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, here.

The event is being sponsored by a committee consisting of Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president; Ned E. Depinet, executive vice-president of RKO; Jack Cohn, executive vice-president of Columbia; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president of Loew's; Claude Lee, Paramount public relations director; John J. O'Connor, vice-president of Universal; Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatres director of advertising-publicity, and Herman Robbins, president of National Screen Service.

Francis S. Harmon, vice-president of the MPA, is chairman of an MPA staff committee on arrangements which includes Arthur H. DeBra, Fred W. DuVall, David Palfreyman, Ted Smith, Glen Allvine, Dorothea J. Lutjens and Dena Alexander.

MPA president Eric Johnston has disclosed that he has received an acceptance from J. Arthur Rank, British industry leader, to speak at the dinner.

'Adventuress' Advanced

"The Adventuress," Eagle-Lion, which follows "The Thief of Bagdad" into New York's Victoria Theatre, will open on Thursday, April 3, instead of the previously announced April 5.

Ascap Moves

(Continued from page 1)

tres are licensed by Ascap and all would be affected by the rate change.

The present Ascap fees are 10 cents per seat annually for theatres of less than 800 seats; 15 cents for 800-to-1,500-seat theatres, and 20 cents for houses over the 1,500-seat size.

Paine contends some smaller houses make greater profits than some larger ones. He said that some theatres have deteriorated since 1933, while others of like size have prospered. All, however, are subject to the same music tax.

Reports of Ascap's aim to make adjustments in its theatre license fees have been circulated for some time, prompting Leo Wolcott, of Iowa-Nebraska Allied, to comment in effect that such a move would be strongly opposed by exhibition.

Paine said that Ascap approached Allied States in 1942 on the question of a revised payment scale which, Paine added, Ascap felt necessary because of population shifts around the country due to the concentration of war industries in the larger cities. He recalled that Allied spurned the Ascap bid.

3 Republic Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

branch managers. Edward L. Walton, assistant sales manager and Western division manager; Walter L. Titus, Jr., Southern division manager, and James V. O'Gara, Eastern division manager, will be present at all meetings.

The first conference is set for Wednesday and Thursday, April 2-3, at the New York Athletic Club. Eastern district manager Maxwell [illegible] will head a contingent to in[illegible] branch managers William P. Murphy, Joseph Engel and Jake Flax. New England district manager Frank Dervin will head a group including branch managers Herbert Schaefer, Arthur Newman, Leon A. Herman, and Jerome Lewis. Sam Seplowin, Central district manager, will head a group from that district, including branch managers Irwin H. Pollard, Norman Levin, George H. Kirby and William Feld, Pittsburgh.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 8-9, at the Hotel Blackstone, Chicago, to be attended by Southern district manager Merritt Davis and branch managers James Hobbs, J. H. Dillon, Leo V. Seicshnaydre and Harold Laird. Norman J. Colquhoun, Southwestern district manager, will head a group of managers from his district, including Thomas Kirk, Nat Wyse and David Hunt. Prairie district manager Nat E. Steinberg will head a contingent including managers J. J. Houlihan, Dave Nelson, Robert F. Withers and Harry Lefholtz. Representation from the midwestern district will be headed by district manager Will Baker, with managers E. H. Brauer, Jack Frackman and Joseph Loeffler. Carl Ponedel, Mexico manager, will also attend.

Third and final meeting is slated for the week of April 14 at the Hollywood studio. Western district manager Earl R. Collins will head a group of managers, to include Ralph Carmichael, S. C. Martenstein, Gene Gerbase, George Mitchell, Thomas McMahon and Paul McElhinney.

Balaban Heads

(Continued from page 1)

Balaban is planning to visit a number of cities in order to stimulate local effort.

Last year the national goal was $100,000,000; $105,000,000 was raised. The motion picture committees raised almost $2,000,000 in Hollywood and New York. This did not include substantial sums contributed in the field.

This year the UJA is aiming for $170,000,000, largest quota for any philanthropy of its kind in the U. S.

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JAMES CAGNEY

IN

"BATTLING HOOFER"

formerly

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VOL. 47 NO. 58 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1947 TEN CENTS

MGM Year's Schedule Is Set by Mayer

8 Musicals and 3 Prize Novels Are Included

A list of 42 features, eight of them musicals, was announced yesterday by the M-G-M home office on behalf of Louis B. Mayer, vice-president in charge of production, for 1947-48, from which an undetermined number will be selected for release within the year. This is in addition to the company's schedule for filming in England, where "Young Bess" and "The Secret Garden" are expected to be the first before cameras.

Emphasizing current novels and literary classics, the company's Hollywood program includes "The Hucksters," with Clark Gable and Deborah Kerr; "East River," Gene Kelly and June Allyson; "B. F.'s Daughter," Katharine Hepburn, and "Cass Tim-

(Continued on page 4)

32 Monogram Films in '48

CHICAGO, March 24.—Monogram will make the same amount of features, 32 for 1947-48 as for 1946-47 and, in addition will make 16 Westerns, compared to this year's 14, it was announced here by Steve Broidy, president, following a board of directors meeting held at the Blackstone Hotel.

Broidy also announced that Monogram will release a minimum of six Allied Artists pictures in 1948, two more than this year's schedule from Allied Artists. The four Allied Artists pictures being released this year are: "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," "Black Gold," "The Gangster" and

(Continued on page 7)

600 at Rally for Greek War Orphans

The industry's current appeal for war orphans of Greece, being conducted nationally in honor of Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, marked the beginning of its third week yesterday with a luncheon-rally at the Hotel Astor here. Some 600 from all branches of the industry were on hand.

George P. Skouras, president of

(Continued on page 7)

'Apley,' 'Brunette' Click; Other N. Y. First-Runs Spotty

New films, particularly "The Late George Apley" and "My Favorite Brunette," were given enthusiastic receptions at New York first-runs this week. However, holdover business on the average runs less impressively.

"Apley" and the Music Hall's annual Easter stage presentation drew an excellent $87,000 Thursday through Sunday, indicating an equally excellent $141,000 for the first week.

"Brunette" and Jimmy Dorsey's orchestra at the Paramount proved a click combination with a first week's gross of $100,000 apparent. "The Locket" probably will take a favorable

(Continued on page 7)

Technicolor Price Up 8% as of Jan. 1

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Technicolor has established a price increase, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1947, to one-half cent per linear foot on all 35mm. film delivered at the company's Hollywood plant (except three-strip and successive negative exposure), and an identical increase in the price of negative developing. Both increases represent a rise of about eight per cent.

The company said increases are necessitated by an 11.17 per cent rise in labor rates recently adopted. Customers can cancel Technicolor commitments on 14 days notice if work is not started.

Gov. Dewey Signs Local Tax Bill

Albany, N. Y., March 24.—Gov. Dewey today signed the bill authorizing cities of 100,000 and counties to levy new taxes, including a five per cent admisisons tax. The bill will be effective July 1. Gov. Dewey emphasized that the new taxes merely were permissive, not mandatory. He added that only a few counties were expected to levy all taxes.

Boren Appointed AMPP Labor Head

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Charles F. Boren, who for the past seven years has been in charge of industrial relations at the Paramount studio here, has been appointed manager of labor relations for the Association of Motion Picture Producers, Eric Johnston announced yesterday.

Boren will assume the newly-created post on April 1. He will be in charge of labor relations and labor policy for the Producers Association and will work in conjunction with the major studios labor committee. It is believed here, however, that his appointment will not conflict with duties performed by Pat Casey, producers' labor representative.

Boren at one time was Paramount studio manager. He will be succeeded as industrial relations manager by Ted Leonard, who has been Boren's assistant for several years.

2 More Eye Jacksonville As New Exchange Area

75 Exhibitors Meet In Denver Today

DENVER, March 24.—Some 75 theatremen, operating more than 100 houses will attend an Allied meeting tomorrow and Wednesday at the Brown Palace Hotel here, at which it is expected a Rocky Mountain area unit will be organized.

Presenting National Allied's case will be Col. H. A. Cole, Texas Allied president and regional vice-president of National Allied; Sidney Samuelson, general manager of Allied of Eastern Pennsylvania, and Trueman T. Rembusch, president of Indiana Allied. Tomorrow evening there will be a get-together at the hotel.

Possibility of the establishment of a new Southeastern exchange area by M-G-M and RKO Radio, with Jacksonville, Fla., as headquarters, developed here yesterday following the disclosure in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 13 that Paramount and Warners have been negotiating for exchange sites in that city.

An M-G-M spokesman said his company has been giving consideration to Jacksonville because the shipping time from there to the surrounding territory would be shorter than from Atlanta, which is now headquarters for the entire area.

Although RKO Radio will not set up an establishment in the Florida

(Continued on page 4)

ATA, CSA Will File Jointly For Bids Stay

Petition Upper Court Tomorrow, Says Jackson

American Theatres Association and the Confederacy of Southern Associations tomorrow will file with the U. S. Supreme Court a joint application for postponement of operation of the competitive bidding provision of the New York Federal Court's decree. The New York court put the operative date at July 1; the two organizations will ask that this be stayed until after the upper court has ruled on appeals of the case.

Basis of the argument to be advanced by ATA and CSA will be the damages which they will insist will be incurred by independent exhibitors

(Continued on page 7)

No 2nd Term For Gamble

Ted R. Gamble, chairman of the board of directors of the American Theatres Association, definitely will not accept a second term in that office, he said here yesterday following his arrival from the Coast for conferences, beginning today, on plans for the ATA's convention.

The board chairman's intention to

(Continued on page 7)

Seek Mexican Quota; Reception Mixed

MEXICO CITY, March 24.—While some sectors of the Mexican industry have responded favorably to the request by the National Exhibitors Association for legislation to require exhibition of domestic product for a

(Continued on page 7)

In This Issue

"Great Expectations" is reviewed on page 4; "Carnival in Costa Rica" and "Love and Learn" on page 6.

Key city grosses are also on page 6.

Exhibitor Luncheon For Boasberg Here

More than 500 reservations have been received for the Charles Boasberg testimonial luncheon, to be given in recognition of his promotion to RKO division manager, by theatre owners of the New York exchange area at the Hotel Astor here Thursday.

Invited to the dais were Harry Brandt, chairman; Ray Moon, chairman, distributors committee; Leon Rosenblatt, treasurer; Leo Brecher, Louis Nizer, S. H. Fabian, Max A. Cohen, Frank Damas, Oscar Doob, Julius Joelson, Malcolm Kingsberg, Sol Schwartz, Edward Lachman, Arthur Mayer, Len S. Gruenberg, Sam Rinzler, Leon J. Bamberger, Phil Hodes, Sam Rosen, Edward Rugoff, Joseph Seider, Fred Schwartz, Sol Strausberg, Robert Weitman and William White.

Set Hearings on U. S. Film Section

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Rep. Richard B. Wigglesworth said today that hearings on continuation of the motion picture section of the Office of Government Reports will be conducted early in April. He is chairman of the appropriation sub-committee which will probe fund requests from independent offices.

A letter is on file at OGR from the nine-man Government-industry film committee which "tells the committee that the industry wants the liaison office continued," a spokesman said. Wigglesworth said no production funds will be granted, and refused to predict what action the committee will take. The film section, without production money, requires $50,000 for administration expenses.

Establish Trust Law Unit Within FTC

WASHINGTON, March 24.—A Division of compliance was established today at the Federal Trade Commission. It will supervise and coordinate all matters relating to enforcement of orders issued to halt violations of the Clayton anti-trust act. This section may be the unit chosen to enforce the final Supreme Court decree in the pending film case.

All anti-trust complaints received by the Government are routed to FTC, and if action is required the matter is turned over to the Attorney General. The division of compliance will be under the general counsel and is headed by Joseph Wright, ex-FTC lawyer.

Congress Urged to Aid Cultural Plan

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Under-secretary of State Dean Acheson today urged Senator Vandenberg and House Speaker Martin to support continuation of the Inter-American Information Service, which includes radio broadcasts, cultural films, and publications.

He submitted his pleas to the Congressional leaders by letter. For more than four years the Acheson plan has been in effect in Latin America, with thousands viewing special film showings monthly.

Personal Mention

SAM KATZ, M-G-M production executive, will leave the Coast tomorrow by plane for Chicago.

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ED DONAHUE, JR., Pathe Newsreel cameraman, is featured in the forthcoming April issue of *Science Illustrated* in an article on newsreel shooting.

•

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Paramount general counsel, is due here April 3 from Boca Grande, Fla., where he has been for several months.

•

ROBERT ARMSTRONG of the M-G-M studio publicity department is due to arrive here today by plane from the Coast.

•

EDWARD L. HYMAN, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., will leave here by plane tomorrow for Boston.

•

JERRY MASON, associate editor of *This Week* magazine, is en route to Hollywood from New York.

•

MEL MORGANSTERN, Loew's home office booker, returned here yesterday from a Miami vacation.

•

ALEX MANTA, partner of the Manta and Ross Circuit, Chicago, has returned there from the Coast.

•

SELMA TANCHAIN, office manager of Ansell Theatres here was married at the weekend to MORRIS SCHWARTZ.

•

J. J. DONOHUE, Paramount's Central division sales head, has returned to New York from Dallas.

•

EDGAR B. HATRICK will leave the Coast tomorrow for New York.

ROBERT S. BENJAMIN, president of the J. Arthur Rank Organization here, is due to return to New York on March 30 from London and Paris.

•

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, is due back in New York from Florida early next month.

•

TOM J. CONNORS, 20th-Fox distribution chief, is expected to return to New York from a Florida vacation at the end of the month.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount's Eastern and Southern division sales manager, has returned to New York from a Southern tour.

•

LEONARD ALLEN, Paramount's special representative in the Atlanta territory, became a father recently.

•

WILLIAM PINE, Paramount producer, has arrived here from the Coast.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram Southern Exchanges, has returned to Atlanta from Chicago.

•

FRED JACKS, Southern district manager for United Artists, is en route to New Orleans from Atlanta.

•

DOAK ROBERTS, Warner Brothers district manager, is in Memphis from Dallas.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M Southern sales manager, returned to New Orleans after touring his territory.

•

CLARENCE BROWN is due here from the Coast tomorrow.

Siritzkys to Coast On Production

Leon and Samuel Siritzky of Siritzky International, French circuit owners and distributors of French product in the U. S., will visit the Coast next month to set up a production organization in cooperation with French producer Marcel Pagnol and one or more Hollywood producers.

Meanwhile, they report that their company has completed plans for entering 16mm. distribution of their French imports by July 1. "The Welldigger's Daughter," "The Baker's Wife," and others of their films are now being reduced to 16mm.

Balaban's Son to Be Inducted Into Lodge

Jack Cohn, Si Fabian, Harry Brandt and Abe Schneider will occupy the dais at the Hotel Astor here tonight when Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, inducts his son, Burt, and a group of new members into Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith. Jack H. Levin is president of the lodge.

The induction will be part of the lodge's salute to the music world in honoring Gene Buck, former president of ASCAP, for his Americanism.

First in New Canadian Rank Circuit Opens

The Odeon Theatre, North Sydney, Nova Scotia, first of a new Canadian circuit planned by the J. Arthur Rank British interests, has opened under a partnership operation by A. I. Garson and Odeon Theatres of Canada, the Rank Organization reported here yesterday.

Among those on hand for the opening were George W. Peters, executive assistant to the president of Odeon, and J. I. English, Canadian theatre designer who will plan the new circuit buildings.

Balaban Absorbing Lesser's Roxy Post

A. J. Balaban, executive director of the Roxy Theatre, 20th Century-Fox "showcase" here, said yesterday he and the "rest of the organization" will absorb the duties of Irving Lesser, who has resigned as general manager. He will leave for the Coast today.

Fessier, Pagano Leave U-I

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Michael Fessier and Ernest Pagano, Universal-International writer-producer team, have left the studio upon what is described as an amicable settlement.

10% Admissions Cut In Effect in France

A French government-decreed 10 per cent reduction in the market price of all commodities, including theatre admissions, is receiving the full cooperation of that nation's industry and appears to be a step toward preventing run-away inflation, Jacques Chabrieier, Pathe Cinema's American representative, who recently returned here from a three-week visit to Paris, reported yesterday. Theatrem 2-, he said, are supporting the program Eastly.

Chabrieier's trip entailed discussions surrounding the Maurice Chevalier film, "Man About Town," which RKO Radio and Pathe Cinema made in France, and which RKO Radio will release in the U. S.

Devonshire Buys Two

Devonshire Films of Boston has sold the rights to two of its productions, "Under the Red Robe" and "Storm in a Teacup," to Famous Pictures Exchange in New York, operated by Harry Goldstone.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN in
'THE LATE GEORGE APLEY'
Introducing PEGGY CUMMINS
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
THE MUSIC HALL'S GREAT EASTER STAGE SHOW

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
Laraine DAY · Brian AHERNE
Robert MITCHUM · Gene RAYMOND
'THE LOCKET' AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN HUMPHREY BOGART LIZABETH SCOTT 'DEAD RECKONING'
IN PERSON GENE SHELDON
Extra! 'SONGWRITERS ON PARADE'
Plus OTHERS

The Academy Award Picture!
Winner of Nine Academy Awards!
'THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES'
ASTOR B'way & 45th St.

BOB HOPE DOROTHY LAMOUR in PARAMOUNT'S "My Favorite Brunette" with PETER LORRE LON CHANEY
in Person! JIMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA PAT HENNING · LYN SHIRLEY LOUIS JORDAN AND HIS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

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ROBERT PRESTON with Reginald Denny · Jean Gillie

Directed by ZOLTAN KORDA

Produced by Benedict Bogeaus and Casey Robinson

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Opening in 35 key spots starting April 10!

Foy Starts Periodic Survey of Exhibition

Expressing a determination "to do something" about the rising wave of criticism of Hollywood product, Bryan Foy, vice-president in charge of production for Eagle-Lion, left here last night for Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago to initiate a periodic cross-country survey of advice, criticisms and suggestions from exhibitors. Following the conclusion of sales conferences in the East, Foy is headed for Detroit to attend the premiere there of "Bedelia."

Foy will stop off at Chicago before returning to Hollywood. He will embark on a tour of the Washington, Montana and Oregon areas after a stopover at the studio. Foy added that he plans to make the tour four times annually.

M. P. Relief Fund Aided 7,576 in 1946

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The Motion Picture Relief Fund extended aid in one form or another to 7,576 persons in all branches of the industry during 1946, the Motion Picture Association disclosed today.

Established in 1919, assistance is rendered by the Relief Fund to persons who have spent five or more years in the film business. Medical patients assisted last year totaled 5,106.

The MPA explained that the fund is financed by subscribed payroll deductions of one-half to one per cent. Contributions amounted to $642,768 last year.

Cheyfitz Talks on Employee Relations

Edward T. Cheyfitz, assistant to Eric Johnston of the Motion Picture Association, addressed the N. Y. Personnel Management Association at the Columbia University Club here last night on the subject "What an Employee Wants to Know."

Cheyfitz said employes' principal concerns are "wages, opportunity and security." He advocated the extension of information areas to employes by management to demonstrate sincerity and achieve high employee morale.

Joseph Walsh, Former MPTOA Official, Dies

HARTFORD, March 24.—Joseph W. Walsh, former national vice-president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, died at Saranac Lake, N. Y., at 55. During his 30 years in the industry, Walsh managed theatres in Rhode Island and Connecticut. His last industry position was as manager of the Newington Theatre at Newington, Conn.

Arthur Rankin, 50, Dies of Hemorrhage

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Arthur Rankin, head of the Rankin Agency, died at his home here Saturday of a cerebral hemmorhage following a long illness. The 50-year-old actor-writer was the son of actor Harry Davenport. He is survived by the widow and two sons.

$24,145 for Red Cross

Loew's Theatres has collected $24,145 for the annual American Red Cross roll call.

Review

"Great Expectations"

(Cineguild—Universal International)

IF merit alone were to determine the outcome, this well-made and well-acted British film based on "Great Expectations" would provide its own answer. But there are inevitable doubts.

Whatever of Charles Dickens has been filmed before was given the advantage of players widely known in the domestic market. This is far from the case here. "Great Expectations," obviously had to emerge as a period piece, and period pieces frequently encounter a highly variable reception. While the director, David Lean—he directed "Brief Encounter"—and the producer, Ronald Neame, have succeeded in breathing vitality into the screenplay, which they also wrote, nevertheless this is Dickens, which will mean the interest of the rank-and-filers will be circumspect at best. On the other hand, to rely upon the author's followers suggests anything but the widest possible audiences although there are schools and study groups, etc.

It is to the credit of the fine craftsmen identified with this production that they appear to have succeeded in giving pace to a story which in today's eyes is hackneyed and decidedly Victorian. Through direction which, of course, controlled the calibre of the principal performances and through expert use of camera, "Great Expectations" combines much of the feel of today with events of another day without stamping the overall outcome as incongruous. It must have taken quite a bit of doing.

Presumably, the adventures of Pip, the country boy who rose to a gentleman's estate in London through an unknown benefactor later established to be a convict he had befriended as a boy, are sufficiently familiar to forego the details. The tale, and its many offshoots, calls for a large cast. These players—chiefly Anthony Wager and John Mills, playing Pip as boy and man; Jean Simmons and Valerie Hobson, playing Estella as girl and woman; Francis L. Sullivan, as Jagger the lawyer; Bernard Miles as Joe, the blacksmith; Martita Hunt, as the eccentric Miss Havisham—perform expertly and constantly reflect an intelligent appreciation of the roles assigned them. The film, moreover, is rich in the flavor of its times and has been produced with meticulous attention to detail.

The question mark is whether or not American audiences at large in 1947, seeking their entertainment in straight pictures houses, will want Dickens. The impression is they will not. For whatever value it may create, however, it is worthy of noting "Great Expectations" follows "The Egg and I" at Radio City Music Hall.

Peter Burnup first reviewed this film from London in the December 23, 1946 edition of MOTION PICTURE DAILY in 118 minutes. Down to 115 for this market, the picture remains overlong. Anthony Havelock-Allan served as executive producer.

Running time, 115 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

Sweden Denies Ban On American Films

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Sweden today denied that it has imposed a complete embargo upon American pictures. The Swedish Board of Trade notified the State Department that published reports to that effect "are incorrect."

Both the U. S. Government and the Motion Picture Association have protested the suggested embargo. The State Department believes that Sweden will establish stiff quota regulations upon U. S. films, but it discounts any complete embargo.

Analysts Are Third Group to Quit CSU

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Striking screen story analysts have withdrawn from the Conference of Studio Unions and have asked the studios to open contract negotiations. The analysts are the third group to break away from the six-month CSU walkout. Electricians and janitors have been back on the job for over a week.

Red Cross Short Is Near Full Bookings

"Call to Action!," official 1947 Red Cross short, of which 3,000 prints are in circulation, is rapidly approaching the 100 per cent booking level in most exchanges throughout the country, says Peter Levathes, assistant to Tom Connors, national chairman of the industry's distributing committee.

Berger Urges Owners To Rally at Meet

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24.—Ben Berger, president of North Central Allied, has urged all independent exhibitors in the area to attend the unit's annual convention here April 21-22. In attacking high film rentals, Berger has asked all exhibitors to unite in a fight on prices by attending the convention, "whether you ever attended an exhibitor convention before or not."

Jacksonville

(Continued from page 1)

city "for the time being," a spokesman for that company indicated that such a move might develop as problems of distribution become intensified under the competitive bidding system called for by the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit.

Whether 20th Century-Fox would follow the other four of the largest distributors into Jacksonville remained a matter of conjecture yesterday, when a member of the company's home office staff reported that such a project had not yet been considered.

In addition to Jacksonville, Paramount has been thinking of adding San Antonio to its list of exchange areas, thus relieving the strain on the Dallas office. The other four companies, however, report that San Antonio has not entered their calculations. At present there are 31 exchange areas.

"Secondary Boycott" Ban Is Proposed

San Francisco, March 24.—Senator Hatfield of Mercer County is author of a bill to fix permanently in the law the prohibition against the labor practices known as "hot cargo" and "secondary boycott". This measure was enacted in 1941 for duration of the war emergency only. It is considered one of the most controversial of those proposed at the current session of the legislature. The bill states that ". . . strikes, lockouts, boycotts and other forms of industrial strife, regardless of where the merits of the controversy lie, are forces productive ultimately of economic waste. . . ."

MGM Schedule

(Continued from page 1)

berlane," Spencer Tracy and Lana Turner.

Elizabeth Metzger Howard's "Before the Sun Goes Down," second-year winner of M-G-M's annual novel contest, will be filmed in 1947, as will the third-year winner, Mary Renault's "Return to Night." The first-year winner, Elizabeth Goudge's "Green Dolphin Street," now is being edited.

Other pictures on the production schedule include: "So Little Time"; "Speak to Me of Love," adapted from "The Nutmeg Tree," with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon; "Three O'Clock Dinner," Miss Turner; "Homecoming of Ulysses," Gable; "Angel's Flight," Gable; "Red Danube"; "Lust for Life," Tracy; "Robinson Crusoe" (in Technicolor); "The Kissing Bandit," Kathryn Grayson and Frank Sinatra; "Big Jim," Wallace Beery; "Daddy Is a Wolf," Walter Pidgeon, Jane Powell, Lauritz Melchior and Xavier Cugat; "Brothers of the East Side," Margaret O'Brien and Van Heflin; "Killer McCoy," Mickey Rooney; "If Winter Comes"; "Chimes of Bruges," Greer Garson.

Also, "The Fortunes of Richard Mahoney," Miss Garson and Gregory Peck; "Family for Jock," Claude Jarman, Jr.; "Coquette," Lana Turner; "Move Over, This Is Love," Robert Taylor; "Three Muketeers, Robert Walker; "The Life of Monty Stratton, Van Johnson; "Bedevilled," Taylor; "The House Above the River," Miss Hepburn; "International Venus," Esther Williams; "Brothers Karamazov," Tracy, Taylor, Heflin; "Ted Sloan," Rooney; "On an Island with You" (in Technicolor), Miss Williams, Peter Lawford, Cugat; "Life of Her Own," William Powell.

The musicals include: "Annie Get Your Gun," starring Judy Garland; "Easter Parade," Miss Garland, Sinatra, Kelly, Red Skelton; "The Pirate," Miss Garland, Kelly, Walter Slezak; "Good News," Miss Allyson, Lawford; "The Good Old Summertime," Sinatra, Kelly; "The Story of Rodgers and Hart"; "Cabbages and Kings," Miss Allyson, Kelly; "Reunion in Vienna," Miss Grayson.

In addition, there will be 48 short subjects, including 16 cartoons in color, 10 Pete Smith Specialties, six John Nesbitt Passing Parades, 12 FitzPatrick Traveltalks, and four two-reel dramas.

The MIGHTY BABE!

You can bet your bottom dollar it's *another* HOMER . . . when The PRIZE BABY . . . the *Mighty Babe*...goes to BAT for your theatre! . . . Every SHOWMAN knows *this* "slugger" . . . who packs 'em in . . . and delivers *record runs* . . . with National Screen Service TRAILERS and ACCESSORIES! . . . He's *grown up* with the Game! . . . He packs a *Mighty Wallop!*... He *"knows the SCORE"!* . . . He's Top Man in his League . . . *most valuable Player* in EVERY Theatre! . . . He's the HOME RUN KING of the Industry!

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CINCINNATI

Grosses generally are well in the upper brackets, with "The Best Years of Our Lives" continuing exceptionally strong in its second week at advanced scales at the RKO Capitol. The weather was unusually pleasant at the weekend. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25-28:

THE DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE (RKO Radio)—RKO ALBEE (3,300) (55c-65c-75c-85c-95c) 7 days, plus Saturday midnight show. Stage: Tex Beneke and Glenn Miller's orchestra, plus acts. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $30,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—RKO CAPITOL (2,000) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average at 50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c: $10,000)

OUT CALIFORNIA WAY (Rep.) and DEATH VALLEY (Screen Guild) — RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 4 days. Gross: $1,800. (Average: $1,600)

GINGER (Mono.) and SONG OF THE SIERRAS (Mono.)—RKO FAMILY (1,000) (30c-40c-50c) 3 days. Gross: $1,200. (Average: $1,100)

LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M) — RKO GRAND (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $8,000)

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I) — KEITH'S (1,500) (50c-55c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $7,500)

KIT CARSON (PRC reissue) and THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PRC reissue) —RKO LYRIC (1,400) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,000)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—RKO PALACE (2,700) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $15,000)

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.) — RKO SHUBERT (2,150) (50c-55c-60c-65c-70c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week on moveover from Palace. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $5,000)

BALTIMORE

Even with fairly substantial attractions and favorable weather, current grosses are about average or slightly better. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 27:

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (U-I) — CENTURY (3,000) (29c-37c-46c-54c and 56c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. Average: $14,000)

SMASH-UP (U-I)—KEITH'S (2,406) (29c-37c-44c-50c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $12,000)

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON (20th-Fox) —NEW (1,800) (28c-40c-50c-58c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.) — STANLEY (3,280) (29c-47c-50c-58c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $16,500)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) — HIPPODROME (2,205) (29c-37c-50c-59c) 7 days. With stage shows. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $17,500)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (75c-$1.25) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $20,000)

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE (UA) — MAYFAIR (1,000) (21c-29c-45c) 7 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,500)

IT HAPPENED AT THE INN (M-G-M reissue)—LITTLE (328) (29c-37c-56c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $3,000)

ATLANTA

Business is satisfactory but the weather somewhat cold. Estimated receipts for week ending March 26:

NORA PRENTISS (WB) — FOX (4,661) (30c-50c). Gross: $13,500. (Average: $13,000)

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio)—PARAMOUNT (2,447) (30c-50c) Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,200)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.) — ROXY (2,446) (30c-50c) 2nd week, moveover from Fox. Gross: $5,900. (Average: $5,600)

CALIFORNIA (Para.) — CAPITAL (2,446) (30c-50c) 3rd week, moveover from Fox and Roxy. Gross: $5,100. (Average: $5,000)

LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—LOEW'S GRAND) (2,554) (30c-50c) Gross $14,000. (Average: $15,000)

SALT LAKE CITY

"Boomerang" is the leading grosser here, with several holdovers above average also. The temperature has been 10 to 15 degrees higher than is usual for this time of year. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26:

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.) — CAPITOL (1,878) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,900. (Average: $7,800)

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I)—CENTRE (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,600)

LAST FRONTIER UPRISING (Rep.) and AFFAIRS OF GERALDINE (Rep.) — LYRIC (1,500) 7 days. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,700)

THE BRASHER DOUBLOON (20th-Fox) and BENEATH CANADIAN SKIES (Screen Classics)—RIALTO (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,900)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) — STUDIO (800) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,800)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) — UPTOWN (1,300) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,900)

NOCTURNE (RKO Radio) and BLONDIE KNOWS BEST (Col.)—UTAH (1,700) (20c-55c-75c) 7 days. Gross: $12,300. (Average: $12,300)

TORONTO

A new regime was ushered in for the first-run situation in Toronto with the addition of two theatres to the list by Famous Players-Canadian Corp. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 27:

I SEE A DARK STRANGER (British)—CAPITOL (1,115) (18c-35c-50c) 6 & 2-s. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—EGLINTON (1,086) (18c-35c-45c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $7,800)

NEVER SAY GOODBYE (WB) — IMPERIAL (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $14,300)

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—LOEW'S (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $13,800)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) — SHEA'S (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $15,800. (Average: $14,800)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.) — TIVOLI (1,434) (18c-35c-45c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,500)

SWELL GUY (U-I) and OUT CALIFORNIA WAY (Rep.)—UPTOWN (2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $10,900. (Average: $11,400)

I SEE A DARK STRANGER (British)—VICTORIA (1,240) (18c-35c-50c) 6 days. Gross: $6,800. (Average: $6,800)

Reviews

"Carnival in Costa Rica"

(20th Century-Fox)

A DELIGHTFUL surprise-package of entertainment is offered by 20th Century-Fox in its "Carnival in Costa Rica," a romantic musical with twinkling meanderings that are sure to have a cheerful box-office effect. An impressive array of troupers head the cast, including Dick Haymes, Vera-Ellen, Cesar Romero, Celeste Holm and Anne Revere, all giving able performances under the direction of Gregory Ratoff.

The story is pleasingly simple in structure. It appears that in some circles in Costa Rica, marital decisions are made for children by their parents. By the logic of this convention, lovely Vera-Ellen finds herself slated to marry Cesar Romero, whose amatory interests are in the direction of Celeste Holm. When Dick Haymes, a business man from the States, enters the scene, he realizes Vera-Ellen is for him, and says so in song, frequently and convincingly. Thus the impulses of the children play havoc with the intentions of the parents, with farcical complications arising out of the conflict.

Sprinkled throughout are a diverting array of melodious tid-bits, along with street dances and confetti-raining fiestas, all caught with vivid effect by the Technicolor cameras. True romance, despite occasional setbacks, eventually conquers custom in the original screenplay by John Larkin, Samuel Hoffenstein and Elizabeth Reinhardt. Others in the William A. Bacher production who help make it an enjoyable film are J. Carrol Naish, Pedro de Cordoba and the Lecuona Cuban Boys.

Running time, 95 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April.

MANNY HERBSTMAN

"Love and Learn"

(Warner Brothers)

Hollywood, March 24

THE number of Jack Carson fans in a given community appears to be the most reliable standard by which to calculate the take expectable from exhibition of this loosely constructed comedy which depends almost exclusively on his personal talent for entertainment. In it he portrays a song writer, and also sings, straight, but he has to carry the whole load and, although he carries it ably enough, the picture achieves only the intermittent sparkle he imparts to it with an occasional glib line of dialogue. Others in the picture are Robert Hutton, Martha Vickers, Janis Paige, Otto Kruger, Barbara Brown, Tom D'Andrea, Florence Bates, Craig Stevens, Angela Greene and Don McGuire. The screenplay, by Eugene Conrad, Francis Swann and I. A. L. Diamond, from a story by Harry Sauber, utilizes familiar plot patterns.

Carson and Hutton are a song-writing team trying hard to make Tin Pan Alley buy their wares. Miss Vickers is a socialite who masquerades as a dance hall hostess, meets and falls in love with Hutton, continues the masquerade to the extent of pretending to live in a cheap apartment on the proceeds of an imaginary past romance, and so on. The complications are of the kind this sort of premise usually breeds, and some of them click, others fizzling for various reasons, chiefly age. William Jacobs produced the picture and Frederick de Cordova directed it.

Running time, 85 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Rank Tightens His Promotional Setup

LONDON, March 24.—A tightening up of the J. Arthur Rank public relations and publicity organizations has been effected by the British film leader, and henceforward every category of the Rank organizations' publicity will be controlled exclusively from Rank's executive headquarters here.

Under the new arrangement, John Myers will become the studios' publicity director, and John Dennett, hitherto Odeon's advertising manager, will become advertising director, with the work of both divisions to be coordinated under the direction of Sydney Wynne.

'Costa Rica' Promotion

Ligia Soto Harrison, Sonia Lizano and Olga Guiderres Pacheco, winners of a contest in Costa Rica, sponsored by *La Tribuna*, San Jose newspaper, and 20th Century-Fox, to find three girls to represent Costa Rica at the opening of "Carnival in Costa Rica" at the Roxy Theatre here, will arrive tomorrow. A program of social activities has been arranged for them here, following which they will go on a three-week tour of the U. S.

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New York, N. Y.
Tel.: PL. 5-3400 PAUL GREEN, Mgr.

32 Monogram Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

"Tschaikowsky." The latter was formerly known as "Tragic Symphony."

In keeping with Monogram's stepped-up production, Broidy announced that the total advertising budget for 1948 will be increased to nearly $3,000,000 including advertising for the Allied Artists product.

Commenting on his company's Western schedule, Broidy said, "The popularity of good Western films is increasing steadily. The need for good Westerns is confirmed by the top-budget Western pictures now being released by major companies."

Broidy revealed that Monogram is increasing its budget 50 per cent on both the Johnny Mack Brown and Jimmy Wakely Western series for 1948, while $100,000 has been budgeted for 1948 for a planned advertising campaign publicizing both personalities.

Broidy will visit several cities this week, arriving tomorrow in Detroit. in Toronto Wednesday and Buffalo Thursday. From Buffalo he will go either to Boston or New York.

On April 5 he will be in Miami for the world premiere of "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," and then go to the New Orleans opening of the film and from there to Dallas and San Antonio for a premiere over the entire Interstate Circuit. Broidy revealed that 28 prevues will be held simultaneously on April 1 in key cities of the Interstate Circuit.

"High Conquest" was the only film Screened during the meeting in Chicago.

Also present at the Blackstone, in addition to Broidy, were: George D. Burrows, Sam Wolf, Ed Mowrey and Norton Richey, together with Irving Mandel, Chicago; Arthur Bromberg, Atlanta; Herman Rifkin, Boston; Charles Trampe, Milwaukee; Bill Hurlbut, Detroit; Howard Stubbins, Los Angeles; Lon Fidler, Denver.

Mexican Quota

(*Continued from page* 1)

minimum of 26 weeks annually, others have responded critically by pointing to the U. S.-Mexican reciprocal trade agreements and the absence of a quota against Mexican films in America.

Since the proposed law would hit American product mainly, those circles critical to the suggestion maintain it would contravene the spirit of existing agreements between the two countries. In some states in the U. S. with predominantly Spanish-speaking people, they add, many theatres devote themselves entirely to Mexican films, and the erection of any restrictions in Mexico against U. S. films might be met by retaliation.

With patrons displaying greater fastidiousness in their theatre attendance, Mexican exhibitors declare, the theatremen are not in a position any longer to take chances, and as a consequence the demand is for top Mexican product or U. S. films. Mexican producers, however, showing an inclination to invest in quality rather than quantity, have begun to taper off on their output, it is understood. Only seven pictures are now in work locally, and banks continue to refuse loans to producers.

Mexican producers, expressing their support of the quota proposal, hope that it would stimulate production and also help to release 50 Mexican films which, they say, are now being blocked by foreign competition.

N. Y. Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

$35,000 in its debut at the Palace, while, at the Rialto "The Devil Thumbs a Ride" had a good opening and figures to take in $9,500 in its first week. One new film, "The Show-Off," was less fortunate at the Criterion with only $15,000 indicated for a first week. "Johnny O'Clock" will follow tomorrow.

"Boomerang" did a sturdy $72,000 Wednesday through Sunday at the Roxy and the third week, ending tonight, probably will bring a nicely profitable $90,000; Katherine Dunham heads the stage bill. "Carnival in Costa Rica" will open there on Friday. The third and final week's gross of "Blaze of Noon," at the Rivoli, is a weak one, estimated at $18,000; "The Farmer's Daughter" will open today.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is on its way to an abundant $46,000 in its 18th week at the Astor. The picure is bettering previous grosses by about $7,000 weekly since it got the Academy Award. "The Red House," at the Globe is healthy at an estimated $27,500 for the second week after taking in a splendid $32,000 in its first seven days. "It Happened in Brooklyn," with Sammy Kaye's orchestra, has $69,000 in view for a second week at the Capitol, a good gross although a large drop under the first week's income of close to $90,000.

On the basis of a neat $29,000 take over the weekend, the Strand show, consisting of "Pursued" and Louis Prima's musical crew, will climb to a handsome $57,000 in the third week. "Nora Prentiss" is rolling along leisurely at the Hollywood, the fifth week promising about $13,500.

"Stairway to Heaven" on a moveover at the Winter Garden is doing good with $30,000 looked for in the second week. At the Park, $7,500 doesn't seem like too much for the third week of "The Years Between"; "Time Out of Mind" is next to play two-a-day beginning April 5

"Angel and the Badman," at the Gotham, is likely to ring up about $14,000 in its fourth week and this means holding over again. The 30th week of "Henry V" provided the John Golden with $8,000, which is fair enough, and the film is to continue until May 3. The third week of "The Thief of Bagdad," a reissue," at the Victoria, is good for $15,000.

Bidding Stay

(*Continued from page* 1)

in consequence of bidding, John G. Jackson, CSA attorney, reported here yesterday following a meeting at his office with Robert T. Barton, also representing CSA, and Thurman Arnold, ATA counsel.

Following the meeting it was indicated charges that bidding as already conducted by some companies has resulted in high film rentals would be incorporated in the application. While it was admitted that actual figures are not available, it was suggested that facts supporting the claim of increased rentals for the distributors could be obtained from various theatremen who have participated in bidding.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the Department of Justice said it will oppose all applications for stays of provisions of the New York decision.

Greek War Orphans

(*Continued from page* 1)

Skouras Theatres and vice-president of the Greek War Relief Association; S. H. Fabian, Fabian Theatres president and co-chairman of the drive; William Helis, president of the Greek War Relief Association; actors Harold Russell and Maurice Chevalier; Greek Charge d'Affaires in New York Paul Economou-Gouras, and others, pleaded the cause of Greece's 378,000 homeless orphans.

Part of the drive's goal, Fabian said, is for each one of the 15,000 theatres in the U. S. to adopt an orphan. He said it was because Skouras had always demonstrated a selfless willingness to embrace all charitable causes that the industry felt it should now pay tribute to him by undertaking to aid the Greek children since that cause has always been so close to Skouras' heart.

George Skouras reviewed the sufferings of the Greeks in the war's aftermath, and said: "We are not asking for amounts of money which would permit the Greek children to live as they should live, but just those amounts which will enable them to exist."

Helis and Economou-Gouras expressed thanks to the industry for the aid it is extending.

Thirty-seven industry leaders, actors and drive sponsors were on the dais, including, in addition to the aforementioned, A. W. Schwalberg, Arthur Sachson, Leonard Goldenson, Sam Shain, Samuel Rinzler, Robert Coyne, Malcolm Kingsberg, Barney Balaban, Ted Gamble, George Schaefer, J. R. Vogel, Abe Montague, Sol Schwartz, John O'Connor, Ted O'Shea, Gus Eyssell, C. J. Scollard, Gene Tierney, Fred Schwartz (chairman of the occasion), and others. Peter Donald was master of ceremonies. The drive is being held through April 8.

No Second Term

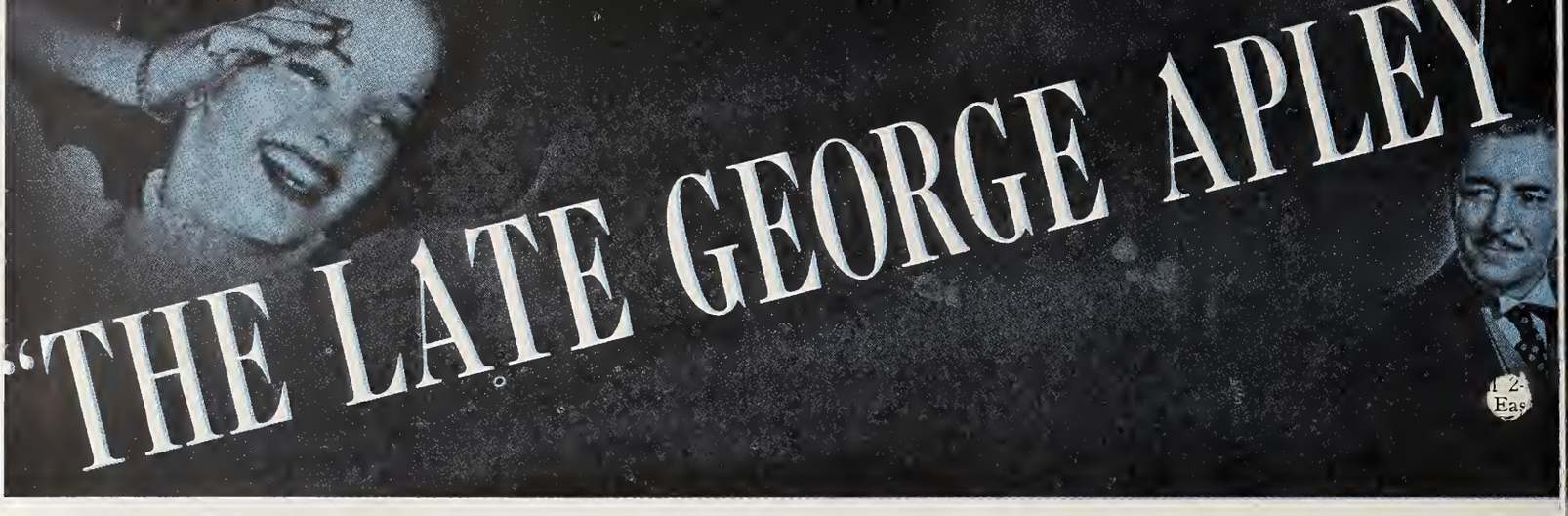
(*Continued from page* 1)

retire, following a similar stand taken by president S. H. Fabian and reported last Thursday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, is based on the belief that the ATA's chief offices should be on a rotating basis, with no individuals holding them more than a year. Both Gamble and Fabian expressed this conviction when the association was formed last April. New leadership each term will be in the interest of democratic procedure and will prevent any danger or suspicion of the ATA's affairs' falling into the hands of a "clique," they hold.

Although Fabian stated last week that he had a man in mind for the presidency next year and that a slate of nominees would be drawn up at this week's conferences, it appears that any names so presented will be referred as merely suggestions to a large nominating committee, which Gamble said yesterday would be appointed.

Gamble, Fabian and Robert W. Coyne, ATA executive director, will meet today in the hope of selecting a date and place for the convention. The choice has been narrowed down to Washington or Chicago, with the event to be held between April 19 and May 1.

Planning to spend most of his time in New York from now on, Gamble will remain more than a month on his present trip. He recently purchased Monarch Theatres and is making his headquarters in the company's office.



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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 59 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1947 TEN CENTS

Set Plans for 'Run' Bidding Start April 1

Ready to Comply with Par. 9 If Stays Denied

With one or two possible exceptions, film company parties to the New York Federal Court's anti-trust suit stand ready to conduct competitive bidding in certain situations beginning April 1, this in compliance with paragraph nine, section two, of the decree, which enjoins arbitrary refusal of a run demanded by an exhibitor.

Thus, while the New York court set down July 1 as the date on which its actual bidding mandate was to become effective, its "arbitrary refusal" provision will in many in-

(*Continued on page 8*)

May Start Bidding Here in a Week

Although distributors are understood to have been reluctant to start competitive bidding in the New York area prior to its official effective date, on July 1, consideration now is being given to inaugurating the system among a number of theatres here in about a week, a spokesman for one of the companies said yesterday. He pointed out that many applications to bid have been received.

The moved-up date would coincide with the time when a number of injunctions of the New York Federal District Court become effective. These include the ban on "arbitrary refusal" to grant a run requested by an exhibitor.

RKO Radio Has 36 16mm. Films for UK

With three blocks of 12 pictures each already completed, RKO Radio will launch 16mm. operations in Britain shortly after the return to that country of Robert Wolff, managing director in the United Kingdom, on May 9. Wolff recently arrived here from London for home office conferences. Up to now, M-G-M, Columbia and Gaumont-British have been conducting 16mm. operations in Britain, where some 800 low-gauge exhibition

(*Continued on page 6*)

Million Net for 'Henry V' in Year

Net receipts in excess of $1,000,000 will have been earned by J. Arthur Rank's "Henry V" through United Artists distribution in this country on the first anniversary of its American premiere early in April. The picture opened April 3, 1946, in Boston. It has already netted $1,018,000.

The picture will end a 46-week run in New York on May 3. It is currently at the Golden Theatre on a two-a-day, advanced admission policy.

The American record for the picture

(*Continued on page 6*)

U. N. Plans Film Board

PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—The film panel of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization conference being held here today reached an agreement that UNESCO should help form and operate a UN film board to coordinate the film interests and activities of all UN agencies. More than 1,000 delegates representing over 500 organizations, including the motion picture industry, press and radio, are attending the conference, which opened yesterday.

It was further decided at the film session that UNESCO should act as a clearing house for information about films, film strips and other visual media, particularly in educational films, for all member nations. However, UNESCO would not itself produce films, except in unusual cases where normal agencies could not be used satisfactorily.

It was generally agreed that suit-

(*Continued on page 8*)

Weitman Elected B'nai B'rith Head

Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount Theatre, was elected president of New York's Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith in an election held at the Hotel Astor here last night prior to the Lodge's

(*Continued on page 6*)

Legal Issues Joined by Big Five Vs ATA

Seek to Bar Theatre Groups from Appeal

A joint U. S. Supreme Court motion has been filed by the five theatre-owning companies opposing the American Theatres Association and the Confederacy of Southern Associations in their fight against competitive bidding, it was revealed here yesterday along with the disclosure that both exhibitor organizations will present to the upper court a counter brief on April 2.

ATA and CSA both have taken an appeal from the New York Federal Court's denial of their petition to intervene in the industry anti-trust case. Loew's, 20th-Century-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Warners on March 14, it has become known, opposed this in a statement and motion to the high court, asserting that the court lacked jurisdiction in an appeal

(*Continued on page 1*)

Says WB Theatres Cancel U-I Films

Reports that all Universal films, including current and scheduled releases, have been cancelled out of Warner theatres throughout the country, were confirmed here yesterday by Universal-International vice-president John J. O'Connor, who attributed the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Technicolor Supply Not Normal Until Next Year

HOLLYWOOD, March 25. — Major production in Technicolor, bottled up by mounting pressure upon Technicolor's plant facilities here, will not return to normal until next year, even though the company expects to augment its capacity late in 1947, Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager, discloses. In lieu of its long-range expansion program, which has been hamstrung by "excessive delays" by labor, in obtaining materials and machinery, and by high costs, he continued, Technicolor has formulated an intermediate, stop-gap program calling for limited expansion. Technicolor processing has been increased about eight per cent because of high costs, as previously reported.

Construction at a site in Van Nuys, recently purchased by the company, "considerable changes" in existing buildings, and installation of additional machines, as well as improvements developed by Technicolor's research laboratory but not yet employed in the plants are projected in the interim plan, according to Kalmus.

"I think that it is not an unreasonable hope that the present backlog will not materially increase during 1947, that it will be whittled away to nothing during 1947 and 1948, and that some time in 1948 we may have both camera and printing capacity to meet some part of the high pressure demand to increase the number of pictures in Technicolor and at the same

(*Continued on page 6*)

Waiting Policy in N. Y. Tax Fight

A policy of watchful waiting was adopted by members of the Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatre Association who met here yesterday to work out plans for opposition to amusement taxes following the State Legislature's passage of an act enabling counties and large cities to impose levies up to five per cent.

With New York City's Mayor O'Dwyer having stated that he does not plan an amusement tax at this time and with no tax ordinances yet having been introduced in Yonkers, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse or Albany, the exhibitors have deferred immediate plans to counter such measures on the local level.

Coleman Transferred In Divisional Switch

Lester Coleman, assistant to George A. Smith, Paramount Western sales manager, will leave New York today for Los Angeles following his transfer to the division's headquarters in Los Angeles. He returned here Sunday after a two-month stay on the Coast for conferences with Smith on the transfer of the division's activities from New York to the field.

In This Issue

"Trailing Danger" is reviewed on page 6.

Key city grosses are given on page 8.

Golden State Will Build Three More

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—The construction of three new theatres has been announced by Golden State Theatres Corp., one each at Lomita Park, San Bruno and Millbrae.

Excavation has already begun on the Millbrae site, although the Civilian Production Administration permit is still pending. William Coovert, representing Golden State, says the structure will have 1,100 seats and will cost $200,000.

The second property, at Lomita Park, awaits definite architectural plans until the size of the surrounding residential tracts has been more definitely determined. CPA permit for this situation is anticipated by November. At San Bruno, Golden State will augment the El Camino Theatre by construction of a new house.

ASCAP Annual Meet Here Tomorrow Night

Reports on the past year's activities of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers will be made tomorrow night at the organization's annual membership meeting here. Deems Taylor, president of ASCAP, will preside at the meeting, which is to be held at the Ritz Carlton.

Guests invited to attend the get-together and the banquet which will follow include: David Sarnoff, RCA president; Justin Miller, head of the National Association of Broadcasters; Edward Noble, American Broadcasting board chairman; Edgar Kobak, Mutual Broadcasting president; Judge A. L. Ashby, attorney for National Broadcasting and Mrs. Guy Gannett, head of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Coast Strike Report In Washington Today

California Senators Jack B. Tenney and Hugh M. Burns, chairman and ranking member, respectively, of their state legislature's Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, left New York yesterday for Washington, where they will testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee today on Communism in connection with the current Hollywood studio strike, Tenney said.

'Duel' Release April 17.

April 17 has been set as the national release date for "Duel in the Sun," Milton Kusell, Selznick Releasing Organization sales manager, announced here yesterday. Plans have been concluded for openings in California, Texas, Florida, and additional Southeastern and Southwestern states.

'Verdoux' Ad Account Set

Buchanan and Co. has been designated advertising agency for "Monsieur Verdoux," producer Charles Chaplin announced here yesterday.

Personal Mention

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, National Screen Service vice-president in charge of sales, is nursing a fractured ankle sustained during a recent visit at Miami Beach.

•

ALFRED N. SACK, head of Sack Amusement Enterprises, Dallas, is in Washington this week. He will visit New York all next week.

•

STEVE BRODY, Monogram president, and EDWARD MOREY, vice-president, have left Chicago for a tour of Canada.

•

BENJAMIN FIELDING, New York City License Commissioner, is expected to return to his desk shortly following a three weeks' absence due to illness.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation chief, will leave New York today for Boston, accompanied by actress JUNE LOCKHART.

•

HARRY BLAKE, manager of the Studio Theatre, Salt Lake City, has returned to his desk after a prolonged illness.

•

BENN JACOBSON, Eagle-Lion studio representative in New York, arrived in Hollywood by plane yesterday.

•

L. W. MCCLINTOCK, Paramount Memphis branch manager, is in Dallas.

•

CARL MILLER is a newly-appointed sales representative for Universal in Salt Lake City.

•

BARNEY ROSE, Western district sales manager for Universal-International, is in Seattle from New York.

•

ROBERT ROSSEN, Columbia writer-director, arrived here from the Coast yesterday.

H. M. BESSEY, vice-president of Altec, and P. F. THOMAS, treasurer, have returned to New York from Atlanta.

•

MAX FEDERHAR, owner of the Cameo and Regent, Akron, and MRS. FEDERHAR, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in Montreal. He is president of the Akron Theatre Managers Association.

•

JOHN PETRAUSKAS, JR., Republic treasurer, became the father of a baby girl, born last Monday at Gotham Hospital, here.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

G. J. MALAFRONTE, Universal-International branch operations manager at the home office, has left Atlanta for New Orleans.

•

SAMUEL CADMAN of the H. A. Stephens Advertising Agency, is the father of a baby daughter, born last week at Brooklyn Hospital.

•

SAM MILBURN, West Coast district manager for PRC and Eagle-Lion, is in Seattle from Hollywood.

•

LEW GINSBURG of Amalgamated Theatres, Hartford, is the father of a new-born baby girl.

•

BUCK STONER, Western district sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, has returned to San Francisco from Seattle.

•

VIC GAUNTLET, Hamrich-Evergreen Theatres advertising manager, has returned to Seattle from Portland, Oregon.

•

JACK HUNT, Chicago theatre operator, is visiting here.

Wood to Press for Americanism Award

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—Producer-director Sam Wood says he is going to press the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences regarding his suggestion, turned down by the academy, that an annual award be presented for the greatest contribution of the year to the cause of good Americanism.

Academy spokesmen took the attitude that such an award would be controversial since there would be many opinions as to what constitutes good Americanism. Wood suggested it as a way to confer recognition on any member of the industry who furthered Americanism during the year preceding the award.

Legion Cites 'Years'

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—Samuel Goldwyn received a citation for his Academy Award-winning "The Best Years of Our Lives," this evening, from the American Legion, Hollywood, Post No. 591.

Building Controls To Creedon's Unit

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Administration of the Federal limitation on commercial construction has been transferred from the Civilian Production Administration to the National Housing expeditor, Frank Creedon, who said his office is taking over exactly at the point where the CPA leaves off.

The housing agency will enforce the construction limitation order, which presently restricts non-housing construction.

Estes in News Post

Bernard Estes, industry public relations consultant, has been appointed associate director of Sindicato De Prensa Latino Americano, by Stanley Ross, director of North American activities. The news syndicate supplies news to some 750 newspaper, magazine and radio clients through 14 offices in Latin America. The news service will expand its coverage on U. S. film news.

Newsreel Parade

AMERICAN foreign affairs, sports, and sundry happenings abroad are spotlighted in current newsreels. Personalities include Acting Secretary of State Acheson, Gen. Eisenhower, Britain's King and Queen, and a number of American film stars. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 60—Congress committee hears Acting Secretary of State Acheson on new U. S. policy. Gen. Eisenhower receives British Sword of Honor. South African tribesmen welcome British royal family. Easter hat fashions. Rare quadruplets born to mama goat. Sports: ski-jumping, water hallet.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 25—Acheson testifies on Greek aid. Palestine martial law lifted. African tribes hail British royal family. Sword of Honor for Eisenhower. Aquabelles in sport spotlight. Babies with deadly "RH" blood offered new hope by science.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 61—Sports: ski stars in Olympic try-out. New York Yankees ready for baseball opener. Film stars aid cancer fund at showing of "My Favorite Brunette" in Hollywood. Early spring thaws hit Netherlands. Martial law ends in Palestine. Potato surplus: 12,000,000 bushels dumped in Maine. Native tribesmen hail British royal family.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 63—Mussolini's girl friend's private life. Greece rebuilds. South African tribesmen hail British royal family. Refugees and prisoners of war return to Vienna and Berlin. Twenty-three die in Alps plane crash. Motorcycle skiers in racing thriller.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 24—Acting Secretary of State Acheson sees no war in Greek aid. Martial law lifted in Palestine. Flood waters sweep British lowlands. Zulu natives hail British king and queen in South Africa. Top-ranking skiers vie for honors. Motorcycle-drawn ski racers.

Stromberg Here for UA Product Talks

Producer Hunt Stromberg has arrived here from Hollywood for general discussions with United Artists officials on sales and promotional plans for his recently completed "Dishonored Lady" and "Personal Column."

Stromberg expects to resume production around Aug. 1, although plans for future films have not yet been completed. The producer announces, however, that he will make more pictures than heretofore.

Alexander Named Albany PRC Head

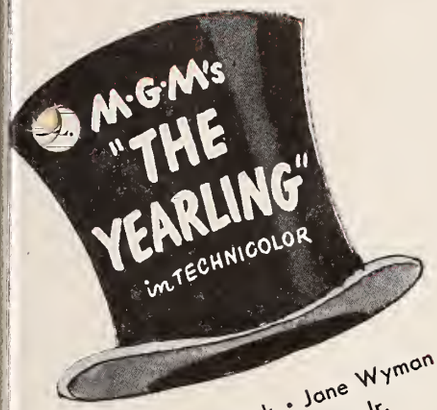
ALBANY, N. Y., March 25.—Harry Alexander, former 20th Century-Fox branch manager here, who lately has been a 20th-Fox salesman in the Syracuse area, will become Producers Releasing Corp. branch manager here, effective Monday. The post has been vacant for some time.

O'Sullivan, Naish Win

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—Maureen O'Sullivan and J. Carrol Naish have received the Catholic Film and Radio Review's annual St. Patrick's Day awards. Vote tabulation from Boston and Dublin delayed the decision for a week.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

TOPPERS IN THE EASTER PARADE!



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Spencer Tracy • Katharine Hepburn
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Frank Sinatra • Kathryn Grayson
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Claudette Colbert • Walter Pidgeon
June Allyson • Lionel Barrymore

Van Johnson • Judy Garland
Frank Sinatra • June Allyson
Robert Walker • Kathryn Grayson
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Screenplay by Ben Maddow

Directed by RICHARD WALLACE · Produced by JULES SCHERMER

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Production on Coast Off 1; 42 Shooting

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—Production has dropped off slightly, and the production index now stands at 42, compared with the previous level of 43. Six new films have reached camera stages, and work has been resumed on M-G-M's musical, "The Pirates." Seven films have gone to cutting rooms, and shooting has been temporarily suspended on Samuel Goldwyn's "The Bishop's Wife," due to a disagreement between the producer and director William Seiter. It appears probable that some other director will replace him when shooting starts again.

The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Keeper of the Bees," "Swing the Western Way."

Shooting: "The Man from Colorado," "Her Husband's Affairs," "Assigned to Treasury" (Kennedy-Buchman).

Eagle-Lion

Finished: "The Red Stallion."

Shooting: "Out of the Blue," "Love from a Stranger."

M-G-M

Resumed production: "The Pirates."

Shooting: "Good News," "The Hucksters."

Monogram

Finished: "The Gangster" (Allied Artists).

Started: "High Tide," with Lee Tracy, Don Castle, Anabel Shaw, Regis-Toomey, Francis Ford, Douglas Walton; "Kilroy Was Here," with Jackie Cooper, Jackie Coogan, Wanda McKay.

Paramount

Finished: "Road to Rio."

Shooting: "The Big Clock."

RKO Radio

Finished: "If You Knew Susie."

Started: "Fighting Father Dunne," with Pat O'Brien, Myrna Dell, Darryl Hickman, Arthur Shields, Una O'Connor.

Shooting: "Crossfire," "Tycoon," "Indian Summer."

Temporarily suspended: "The Bishop's Wife" (Goldwyn).

Republic

Started: "The Outcast," with John Carroll, Vera Ralston, Broderick Crawford, Robert Paige, Henry Travers, Blanche Yurka.

Shooting: "Saddle Pals," "Springtime in the Sierras."

Screen Guild

Finished: "The Hat-Box Mystery" (Screen Art).

Shooting: "Western Barn Dance" (Schwarz); "Killer Dill" (King); "The Case of the Baby Sitter" (Screen Art).

Selznick

Shooting: "Portrait of Jennie," "The Paradine Case."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Kiss of Death," "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay," "Captain from Castile," "Second Chance" (Wurtzel).

United Artists

Shooting: "Atlantis" (Nero); "Body and Soul" (Enterprise).

Universal-International

Shooting: "Jeopardy," "For the Love of Mary," "Singapore," "The Secret Beyond the Door," (Diana); "Brute Force" (Hellinger); "The Lost Love" (Wanger).

Warners

Started: "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," with Humphrey Bogart, Walter Huston, Tim Holt, Barton MacLane; "Whiplash," with Dane Clark, "Alexis Smith, S. Z. Sakall.

Shooting: "Voice of the Turtle," "Two Guys from Texas," "Wallflower," "The Unsuspected" (Curtiz).

Review

"Trailing Danger"

(*Monogram*)

JOHNNY MACK BROWN, again aided by Raymond Hatton, sets for himself the task of driving a stage-coach safely to its terminal. The main difficulty, however, arises out of the fact that a band of outlaws are determined to "get" one of the passengers and the result is a Western of customary proportions.

The Barney Sarecky production has Marshal Reed, as an escaped prisoner, cast as the "heavy" and he holds up his end with a proper display of skullduggery. The usual exchange of gunfire, plus some fisticuffs and galloping hoofs are included to keep Western fans satisfied. When the smoke of battle finally clears, the stage has made its run safely, and Reed and the remnants of his gang are in the hands of justice. Others in the cast, directed by Lambert Hillyer, are Peggy Wynne, Edwin Parker and Steve Darrell.

Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 29.

MANNY HERBSTMAN

$7,500 Fire Loss

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 25.—Damage resulting from fire yesterday at the Liberty Theatre, downtown Warner house, was estimated at $7,500.

Technicolor Supply

(*Continued from page* 1)

time return to normal print delivery," Kalmus declared.

Major stumbling blocks in Technicolor's schedule stem from the six-month strike in 1945 and the current one which began last October, each of which set deliveries three or four months behind the previous three-month period consumed from the time Technicolor received an approved answer-print," the executive explained. Consequently, he added, it may take nine months, and in some instances even longer, for delivery of completed prints.

He revealed that while the Technicolor laboratory is operating at "very nearly full capacity," about 400 of the company's workers are new people who are being trained in their jobs. In some departments, such as the mechanical shop department, virtually all of the experienced men are still on strike.

Cancel U-I Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

action by Warners to a dispute revolving around Universal's signing of former Warner writer-director Robert Buckner.

Buckner's contract with Warners, O'Connor said, was about to expire and renewal of it appeared unlikely. Thereupon, he added, U-I signed Buckner. Warners then demonstrated objections to the U-I move by taking the product cancellation action, according to O'Connor.

However, Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatres advertising-publicity director, was unable yesterday to present Warners' version of the situation while awaiting details on the move from the Coast.

'Henry' Net

(*Continued from page* 1)

is noteworthy in view of the fact that it has not been in general release yet, nor has it played major first run theatres. Bookings have been retricted to 60 special engagements, primarily in university and college centers, in houses leased by the distributor in the U. S. and Canada.

American exhibition policy for the picture was set and has been directed by Paul Lazarus, Jr., United Artists advertising-publicity director, and Harold Auten of the J. Arthur Rank Organization here. The two estimate that "Henry V" can play for several years on its present policy.

Weitman Elected

(*Continued from page* 1)

tribute to Gene Buck, former president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Weitman succeeds Jack H. Levin, vice-president and general manager of Confidential Reports, Inc.

Elected as vice-presidents were Julius Collins of ASCAP; S. M. Chartock, producer; S. Arthur Glixon, attorney; Bernard Goodman, Warner Brothers; Leo Jaffe, Columbia Pictures; Marvin Kirsch, *Radio Daily*; Martin Levine, Brandt Theatres; Milton Livingston, Universal; Nat K. Loder, Republic; Louis A. Novins, Paramount.

Max B. Blackman of Warner Brothers was elected treasurer; Malvin T. Davidson, attorney, was elected secretary; Dr. Morris K. Silberman was elected sergeant-at-arms, and Rabbis Ralph Silverstein and Bernard Birstein were elected chaplains.

Gene Buck was presented the "Cinema Lodge Honor Scroll" for his outstanding Americanism and his devotion to the best interests of America's song writers.

Installation of officers elected last night will be held on April 23rd.

In another feature of the evening, Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, inducted his son, Burt Balaban, and a group of new members into the Lodge, the membership of which now totals 1,400 in the allied entertainment industries.

Philadelphia UJA Meeting

Barney Balaban, chairman of the motion picture division of the United Jewish Appeal, will attend a drive organization dinner at the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, tonight, accompanied from New York by Lou Novins and Sam Shain. Jay Emmanuel is head of the Philadelphia committee.

RKO 16mm. Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

installations, many of them mobile units, are in existence.

The company's 16mm. activities in England, Wolff said, will be exclusively theatrical, and will be so conducted as to protect 35mm. accounts. He forecast a huge market in the field and said the results attained next summer will serve as a guide to the extent to which RKO Radio will pursue 16mm. operations in that country thereafter.

Wolff reported that James Hilton's "So Well Remembered," first of a series which RKO Radio will produce in conjunction with the J. Arthur Rank interests, has been completed and will be released shortly. The film, he said, in all likelihood marks the termination of individual RKO production in England.

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New Allied Unit Is Indicated at Denver

DENVER, March 25.—More than 60 exhibitors from seven Rocky Mountain area states attended the opening session of the Allied organizational meeting to hear Sidney Samuelson, A. H. Cole and Trueman Rembusch present the Allied story, which was enthusiastically received. Indications were that a unit will be set up as a result of the meeting.

The meeting was in the nature of an open forum. Speakers ripped into distributors, claiming that the companies have no national sales policy but fit policy to what they can get. The Allied caravan was described, along with Allied's setup and aims. The meeting lasted until late afternoon, with a get-together held in the evening.

Ten Additional Films Rated by the Legion

Four of 10 films reviewed have been placed in Class A-I by the National Legion of Decency. They are: "Carnegie Hall," United Artists; "Great Expectations," Universal-International; "The Late George Apley," 20th Century-Fox; "Six Gun Serenade," Monogram.

Placed in Class A-II are: "Framed" and "The Guilt of Janet Ames," both Columbia, and "A Yank in Rome" (Italian), Lux Films. Class B: "Duel in the Sun," Selznick; "Magnificent Rogue," Republic, and "Odd Man Out," Universal-International. The classification of Superfilm's "French-made "Carmen" has been changed from C to B, a change warranted, it was said, on the basis of revisions made in the film.

Weill on Broder Job

Sydney B. Weill will prepare pressbooks and lobby advertising on eight of the 40 releases recently acquired by the Broder American Releasing Corp. from United Artists. Trailers are already in work on the subjects, two of which are tentatively scheduled for June release.

Ga. Bars Sunday Shows

ATLANTA, March 25.—The Georgia House has killed a bill legalizing Sunday shows, by a vote of 80 to 40. Before killing the bill, the House had inserted an amendment which would have required theatres to donate 35 per cent of their Sunday receipts to charity.

Calvet Reception Today

Corinne Calvet, French actress, will be the guest at a reception to be given by Paramount this afternoon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here. Miss Calvet has been given a long term contract by the company.

'Years' to K.C.'s Tower

KANSAS CITY, March 25. — Fox Midwest has obtained Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" for the Tower, downtown first-run. Prices will be $1 for matinees and $1.50 for evenings.

French Films for E-L

American Eagle-Lion will import a number of French-made productions for distribtuion, Sam Seidelman, E-L foreign sales manager, discloses here.

TBA Wins Fight on 20% Television Tax

The Bureau of Internal Revenue's abandonment of plans to impose a 20 per cent amusement tax where television receivers are in use in cabarets was the direct result of action taken by J. R. Poppele, president of the Television Broadcasters Asociation, the organization reports here.

Appearing before the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Poppele pointed out that television could hardly be classified in the same category as cabaret entertainment.

Television Meeting Here to Discuss Films

More than 500 radio, television, film and advertising executives are expected to attend a discussion of the part films will play in television at a "Television Institute" to be held at the Hotel Commodore here on April 14-15. The conference will be conducted by *The Televiser*.

Among topics to be discussed are: "What Is Film's Role in Television?", "Putting Showmanship Into Television Films," "News, Documentary and Special-Event Films," "Editing Film for Video," and "Setting Up a Film Department."

2 Chicago Drive-Ins To Open Next Month

CHICAGO, March 25.—Chicago's two outdoor theatres will both open next month. The six-year-old Drive-In, which advertises as "the largest drive-in theatre in the country," will open on April 20. It is owned by Nate Barger and Associates and is managed by Jack Hunt. The new Outdoor Theatre which opened in the summer of 1946, will open on April 10. It is owned by Irving Gandall and Frank Fink. Roy Zarmaine is the manager.

Grading has been completed on a third outdoor theatre here which will be owned by Phil Smith of Boston.

'Delusion' Tradeshow

M-G-M will tradeshow "Dark Delusion" in all company exchanges April 7 with the exception of Washington, where it will be screened on the following day. The picture was formerly titled "Cynthia's Secret," and was originally set for showing on March 11 but was postponed until a final title was set.

Special 'Costa' Screening

The three winners of a Costa Rican beauty contest who arrived here yesterday will be guests at a special screening of 20th Century-Fox' "Carnival in Costa Rica" at 20th's home office here tonight. Costa Rican officials also are expected to attend.

Set SRO Distribution

CLEVELAND, March 25.—E. S. Johnson and Louis Gross, who operated the Central Shipping Terminal, have concluded arrangements to handle the physical distribution here of the SRO product. To date no Cleveland sales organization has been established.

'Carrolls' Opening Set

World premiere of "The Two Mrs. Carrolls" has been set by Warners for the Hollywood Theater, New York, starting Saturday, April 5, following the current run of "Nora Prentiss."

SAG Sees Walsh, Lindelof Meet Next

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—A meeting between IATSE president Richard Walsh and Painters International president L. P. Lindelof is the next logical step toward settlement of the studio strike, the Screen Actors' Guild board of directors declared today in a telegram to the executive board of Painters' Local No. 1421. The painters had asked the SAG to restate its position on the strike. The SAG telegram revealed that Walsh has expressed willingness to meet with Lindelof at the latter's convenience.

Pointing out that the painters and the carpenters are the only crafts still on strike, the SAG board indicated that the former can work out a settlement, whereas it believed the carpenters cannot do so unless International president William Hutcheson alters his position on jurisdiction over set erection work.

Ornato Television Films

Joseph Ornato, stage and film producer, has formed Premiere Pictures, here, which will begin immediately the production of a series of shorts in 35 and 16mm. for television transmission.

Industry Cancer Drive

Harry Brandt, president of Brandt Theatres, will be chairman of the entertainment group for the April campaign of the New York Cancer Committee of the American Cancer Society.

'Big 5' Vs ATA

(*Continued from page* 1)

of this nature. They charged further that the denial of ATA's and CSA's move to intervene is not appealable in that the two theatre groups do not have an "immediate and legal interest" in the case which they would lose if intervention is denied.

The five companies go on to state that ATA and CSA have no interest in the New York court's judgment on bidding in that if a distributor had elected to sell pictures on a competitive basis before the New York decision the two organizations would lack legal right to compel the distributor to license pictures in any other manner.

The five point to a portion of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which permits intervention as a matter of right "when the representation of the applicants' interests by existing parties is or may be inadequate and the applicants are or may be bound by a judgment in the action."

From this they conclude that ATA and CSA are "not inadequately represented" within the meaning of the law and thus are not entitled to intervene as a matter of right.

In their counter brief, ATA and CSA will re-emphasize their claim that they will incur damages unless protected against bidding and that they are without representation in the equity case although it is one in which they are vitally interested.

A unique aspect of the situation is that to some extent Paramount and 20th-Fox are at odds with a part of themselves, namely, theatre partners and subsidiaries which are members of either ATA, CSA or both.

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Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"My Favorite Brunette" took top honors at box-offices here this week, with "Carnival in Costa Rica" and "It Happened in Brooklyn" dividing the rest of the business done by new offerings. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 26:

BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (U-I) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $7,100)

THE MAGIC BOW (U-I)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $11,500)

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $18,200)

IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $18,100)

BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (U-I) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $6,800)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—FAIRFAX (1,504) ($1.20-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 10th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $19,000)

BEDELIA (PRC)—FOUR STAR (900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,100)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO-Goldwyn)—FOX-BEVERLY (1,350) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $12,000)

IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $13,300)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO-Goldwyn)—GUILD (965) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $5,900)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO) and MILLIE'S DAUGHTER (Col.)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $19,800)

SMASH-UP (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $8,800. (Average: $7,200)

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $28,600)

IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $22,600)

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,500)

THE RED HOUSE (UA-Thalia)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $4,700)

THE RED HOUSE (UA-Thalia)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $14,200)

THE RED HOUSE (UA-Thalia)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,400)

THE RED HOUSE (UA-Thalia)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $4,700)

BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME (U-I) and THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (PRC)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $18,800)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO-Goldwyn)—PALACE (1,237) ($1.00-$1.25-$1.80) 7 days, 9th week. Gross: $20,500. (Average: $21,000)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO) and MILLIE'S DAUGHTER (Col.)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $20,800)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.) and RENEGADE GIRL (Screen Guild)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $32,200. (Average: $26,600)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $16,100)

SMASH-UP (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,600)

SMASH-UP (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,100)

SMASH-UP (U-I) and GENTLEMAN JOE PALOOKA (Mono.)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,800)

CARNIVAL IN COSTA RICA (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,200)

DUEL IN THE SUN (SRO)—VOGUE (800) ($1.00-$1.50-$1.80) 7 days, 12th week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,000)

PURSUED (WB-US Pictures)—WARNER (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $18,200)

PURSUED (WB)—WARNER (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $15,500)

PURSUED (WB)—WARNER (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $14,900)

PHILADELPHIA

"My Favorite Brunette" is the box-office leader this week with "The Jolson Story," now in its fourth week, a very close second. Estimated grosses for the week ending March 25-27:

BEDELIA (PRC)—ALDINE (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $13,800)

HUMORESQUE (WB)—ARCADIA (900) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week, 2nd run. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $6,600)

THAT WAY WITH WOMEN (WB)—BOYD (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,700. (Average: $21,000)

IT'S A JOKE, SON (PRC)—EARLE (3,600) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 6 days of vaudeville, starring Gene Krupa. Gross: 6 days, $24,800, and **MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)**. Gross, 1 day: $4,600. (Average: $31,700)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—FOX (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $25,000)

SINBAD THE SAILOR (RKO Radio)—GOLDMAN (1,400) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,000)

THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—KARLTON (1,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,500. (Average: $9,500)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (RKO Radio)—KEITH'S (2,200) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week, 2nd run. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $6,200)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—MASTBAUM (4,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 1st week. Gross: $35,900. (Average: $29,500)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—STANLEY (3,000) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $34,300. (Average: $27,000)

THE BEGINNING OR THE END (M-G-M)—STANTON (1,700) (50c-60c-74c-80c-85c-94c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $12,700)

PITTSBURGH

Under ideal weather conditions, the Stanley led first-runs. However, the Warner, in its second week at a first-run house, did far better than average, and so did the Fulton. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 27:

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—FULTON (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 3rd week. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $9,700)

SMASH UP (U-I)—J. P. HARRIS (2,000) (40c-55c-70c). Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,000)

MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—PENN (3,400) (40c-55c-70c) 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $25,000)

PURSUED (WB)—RITZ (1,100) (40c-55c-70c) 3rd week on a moveover from the Stanley. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,500)

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—SENATOR (1,700) (40c-55c-70c) 6th week downtown on a moveover from the J. P. Harris. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $3,200)

CALIFORNIA (Para.)—STANLEY (3,800) (40c-55c-70c). Gross: $26,000. (Average: $25,000)

SONG OF THE SOUTH (RKO Radio)—WARNER (2,000) (40c-55c-70c). Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,000)

BUFFALO

A customary seasonal slump in business is in evidence at box-offices here. However, the Century has doubled its average with "The Best Years of Our Lives," at advanced prices. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 29:

PURSUED (WB)—BUFFALO (3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c). Gross: $17,200. (Average: $19,000)

BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—GREAT LAKES (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c). Gross: $17,300. (Average: $18,000)

BEDELIA (PRC) and IT'S A JOKE, SON (PRC)—HIPPODROME (2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c). Gross: $8,200. (Average: $10,000)

JOHNNY O'CLOCK (Col.) and CIGARETTE GIRL (Col.)—LAFAYETTE (3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,000)

LES MISERABLES (20th-Fox reissue) and STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE (20th-Fox reissue)—TECK (1,500) (40c-50c-60c-70c). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,000)

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—TWENTIETH CENTURY (3,000) (90c-$1.50). Gross: $32,000. (Average, at 40c-50c-60c-70c: $16,000)

INDIANAPOLIS

Business still is off here with the best gross credited to "The Red House," going well below average at Loew's. The slump otherwise is laid to usual seasonal influences. Weather is mild but frequently wet. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25-26:

THE PERFECT MARRIAGE (Para.) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—CIRCLE (2,800) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000)

NORA PRENTISS (WB)—INDIANA (3,200) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $15,200)

SMASH-UP (U-I)—KEITH'S (1,300) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,500)

THE RED HOUSE (UA) and SECRET OF THE WHISTLER (Col.)—LOEW'S (2,450) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $13,800)

THE PLAINSMAN AND THE LADY (Rep.) and THAT BRENNAN GIRL (Rep.)—LYRIC (1,600) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $6,700)

U.N. Film Plans

(Continued from page 1)

able German educational and scientific films should continue to be used by other countries. It was also suggested that a commission on immediate technical needs be set up to examine the requirements of countries which have suffered severely from the war, with regard to raw materials, equipment and trained technical personnel in the film field.

It was suggested that UNESCO undertake a 1947 survey on films and make a factual analysis of their present world structure. A resolution was adopted calling for the support of an international convention which would facilitate the exchange of films and visual material between countries, with the further recommendation that these materials be permitted to enter duty free.

Donald M. Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers is expected to arrive here tomorrow. He is not scheduled to participate in the conference until its conclusion on Thursday.

Set "Cheyenne" Date

"Cheyenne," Warner Brothers, will be nationally trade shown on Monday, April 21.

'Run' Bidding

(Continued from page 1)

stances result in bidding three months earlier, unless stays are granted to some of the distributors whose petitions are now before the Supreme Court.

Paragraph nine, section two, enjoins the distributors "from arbitrarily refusing the demand of an exhibitor, who operates a theatre in competition with another theatre not owned, operated by a defendant distributor, or its affiliate or subsidiary, made by registered mail, addressed to the home office of the distributor, to license a feature to him for exhibition on a run selected by the exhibitor, instead of licensing it to another exhibitor for exhibition in his competing theatre on such run. Such demand shall be deemed to have been refused either upon the receipt by the exhibitor of a refusal in writing or upon the expiration of ten days after the receipt of the exhibitor's demand."

Opposing Stands

Warners, Paramount and Columbia at present stand apart from their co-defendants on means of immediate compliance with this. Warners has taken the position that bidding "would be the easiest way to conform" with the provision but maintains that full consideration of a request for a run can be given by weighing the merits of the request and this need not invoke bidding. The company's counsel states that bidding will begin July 1.

Paramount does not expect many such requests and will consider each individually rather than setting an overall policy. The company states bidding would be necessary where two theatres of like calibre are involved. Paramount has conducted bidding in about 18 situations, voluntarily, to date.

Louis Frohlich, counsel for Columbia, said that policy regarding the matter could not be set down until his application for a stay of certain provisions of the decree is ruled upon by the U. S. Supreme Court. If, on the other hand, he said, the decision on the stay petition is not made he will deal with "arbitrary refusal" when the time arrives.

RKO's Interpretation

RKO Radio states that the program for handling paragraph nine requests is being developed and will be applied where necessary. This, he said, amounts to bidding.

United Artists is now in the process of outlining competitive areas around the country with bidding in some situations to begin April 1 in mind.

Universal has begun negotiations with exhibitors who have requested certain runs and where a contest for the runs developed bidding was the result.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which has expanded its bidding operations to over 40 situations, reports that some additional bidding will stem from the "arbitrary refusal" provision. Here it was pointed out that many exhibitor requests have not met the specifications set down in the decree, some asking for product not yet available. A spokesman expressed the view that in any case conformity with paragraph nine will not mean a general policy of bidding nationally beginning April 1.

In the case of 20th Century-Fox, negotiations with theatremen for runs requested by them have been going on for some time. Some of these have led to an exhibitor's procuring a run which his competitor previously had.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 60 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1947 TEN CENTS

Dissolution of Partnerships Starts Shortly

Para. - Loew - McFaul Deal Seen as First

Dissolution of theatre partnerships between affiliated circuits and independent exhibitors, as ordered by the New York Federal District Court, is expected to begin in the near future, with the three-way relationship at Buffalo between Paramount, Loew's and Vincent R. McFaul likely to be the first on the list.

Talks regarding the termination of this partnership already have begun, according to a Paramount spokesman, who said the step will be taken in the near future, following the ending of his company's last pooling agreement. Fourteen theatres in the Buffalo area are involved. McFaul holds a 14

(Continued on page 7)

Le Sieur, Winikus Promoted at U. A.

Howard LeSieur, advertising manager of United Artists, has been promoted to the newly-created post of assistant advertising-publicity director, by Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., the company's national advertising-publicity head. Francis Winikus, who has been serving as copy chief, will move up to LeSieur's spot as advertising manager.

The new move was prompted by the company's expanding business and the addition of several important pro-

(Continued on page 7)

Balaban Addresses Phila. UJA Group

PHILADELPHIA, March 26.—Time has made the situation confronting the Jewish people "infinitely worse," Barney Balaban, Paramount president and national chairman of the film division of the United Jewish Appeal, said tonight at a dinner-meeting of the local UJA film division at the Hotel Warwick here. The goal of the 1947 drive is $170,000,000.

"The Jewish people of Europe are completely dependent upon us for their

(Continued on page 8)

Board Asks 'Free Press' Guarantees For Films, Radio

A recommendation that the constitutional guarantees of the freedom of the press be recognized as including motion pictures and the radio is the principal conclusion of interest to the two industries contained in a general report on mass communications made at the instigation of Henry R. Luce of Time, Inc.

Titled "A Free and Responsible Press," the report is being published as a supplement to the April issue of Luce's *Fortune*. It was prepared by a commission on freedom of the press, of which Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago is chairman.

(Continued on page 8)

Judge Jackson to Join PCA April 1

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Judge Stephen S. Jackson of New York has been named assistant to Joseph I. Breen, Production Code Administrator, and will assume his new duties in Hollywood on Tuesday, the Motion Picture Association announced today from its headquarters here.

The appointment of Judge Jackson,

(Continued on page 7)

MPA Donation for British Flood Aid

London, March 26. — The Motion Picture Association of America, on behalf of its member companies, has given $20,000 to London's Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of victims of the recent flood disasters in England.

New Rocky Mountain Allied Unit Formed

DENVER, Colo., March 26.—After listening yesterday to Allied States leaders cite the advantages of joining that organization, local theatremen have formed Rocky Mountain Allied. The following have been elected temporary officers: John Wolfberg, Denver, president, and Joe Ashby, treasurer. Board members are: Fred Lind, Colorado; Carl Garretson and Ralph Means, New Mexico; Tom Knight and Lloyd Kerby, Wyoming; and Robert Spahn, Nebraska.

When the aforementioned have drafted a constitution, another meeting will be called, and a Denver office will be opened under the management of an executive secretary. More than 60 attended the meeting which led up to the formation of Rocky Mountain Allied, and which was promoted by Wolfberg.

Para. May Drop Bidding Appeal But Wants a Stay

Astor Also Out of MPA Title Bureau

Astor Pictures is the second company in a week to withdraw from the Motion Picture Association's Title Registration Bureau, complaining that titles registered by the large companies are so numerous and all-inclusive that new titles filed by independents often too closely resemble those on file and conflicts result.

Eagle-Lion bowed out of the bureau for the same reason last week. Although an Astor statement reports it is resigning from the MPA, the company had been in no other way associated with the MPA and the title service was rendered gratis to it, as well as to all companies outside the MPA.

Margaret Young, head of the bureau here, said yesterday that since

(Continued on page 8)

Although Paramount, alone among the five theatre-owning defendants in the industry anti-trust suit, has told the U. S. Supreme Court that the New York Federal District Court erred in decreeing competitive bidding, the company has "not yet determined" whether this assignment will be urged before the high tribunal when the appeals are argued. However, Paramount holds that it would "seem wise" to stay the bidding provision beyond July 1 and wants to be permitted to apply for such a stay if the pending applications of Columbia, Universal and United Artists are granted.

This position is outlined in a letter from Paramount's counsel to Justice Stanley Reed in Washington, who will hear arguments on the stay petitions in that city tomorrow. "Our clients," the letter states, "presently intend to follow the decree as it is written, so far as they can possibly

(Continued on page 9)

Arbitration Move Perils Decree: U. S.

D. of J. Sees Bidding as 'Step Toward Relief'

Declaring that the pending motion before the U. S. Supreme Court to prevent dissolution of the industry arbitration system beginning next Tuesday is tantamount to asking for a reversal of the New York Federal District Court's decree in the industry anti-trust suit, and that competitive bidding should start on July 1 as "a preliminary step toward adequate relief," the Department of Justice yesterday filed notice with the high tribunal that it will oppose all stays of the local tribunal's judgment when Justice Stanley Reed holds a hearing on the petitions in Washington tomorrow afternoon.

"The arbitration stay sought by the major defendants is

(Continued on page 7)

ATA, Allies to Ask Bids Stay Tomorrow

American Theatres Association, the Confederacy of Southern Associations and the Southern California Theatre Owners Association tomorrow will jointly apply for postponement of operation of the bidding provisions of the New York Federal Court's anti-trust decision, having altered original plans to file yesterday.

In argument for the stay, which will

(Continued on page 4)

Brooklyn Theatre to Halt its Bidding

Condemning the three-way competitive bidding fight under way in the Court Street situation in Brooklyn as one which is "rapidly getting out of control," Joseph Mirasola, owner of the Gloria Theatre, last night disclosed that he will withdraw from any further bidding for RKO Radio

(Continued on page 8)

In This Issue

Key city grosses are given on page 9.

Personal Mention

CHARLES P. SKOURAS, president of National Theatres, has left the Coast by plane for Chicago and Milwaukee.

•

SPYROS P. SKOURAS and MURRAY SILVERSTONE, presidents of 20th Century-Fox and 20th-Fox International, respectively, and their wives, left Mexico City yesterday for Panama, on a South American tour. They will return to New York at the end of April.

•

LEN S. GRUENBERG, captain of the 1947 "Ned Depinet Drive," is due in New York today from the field. He will make his future headquarters here as RKO Radio metropolitan district manager.

•

HARRY WARNER, president of Warner Brothers, is due in New York soon from the Coast. He may be joined on the trip East by JACK L. WARNER, production vice-president.

•

ADOLPH ZUKOR, Paramount board chairman, and MRS. ZUKOR, are due in New York on Monday from Tucson, Ariz.

•

LESTER COLEMAN, assistant to Paramount Western division sales manager, left here for Los Angeles yesterday.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M Southern sales manager, will leave his New Orleans headquarters today for a Miami vacation.

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th-Fox distribution chief, is expected back here on Monday after vacationing in Florida

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ, executives of Kay Film Exchanges, are in New York from the South.

•

MARTIN LEVINE, general manager of Brandt Theatres, returned here yesterday from a Florida vacation.

Upholds Disavowal Of Minors' Deals

Los Angeles, March 26.—The right of a player to disavow, on attaining majority, an employment contract entered into while a minor, has been affirmed by the Appellate Court here in the case of Joan Leslie vs. Warner Brothers. The case was originally decided in Miss Leslie's favor in Superior Court.

It is understood, however, that the company will carry an appeal to the State Supreme Court. The Leslie case is considered fundamentally important to all studios, because of the existence of a large number of similar employment contracts.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

ADDRESSING 250 executives of Fox West Coast Theatres in Los Angeles the other day, Charlie Skouras foresaw the immediate future of exhibition confronted with two factors. One was the implementation of the provisions of the consent decree; the other was what he described as an increasing demonstration by the public of greater selectivity in their film entertainment. These conditions, it was his conclusion, indicated the continued, if not a greater, success in exhibition would rely ever more on the most efficient brand of theatre operation and aggressive showmanship.

■

There will be little argument on both approaches, although it is not clear why Skouras accepted the burden for exhibition without passing to Hollywood its portion. More particularly on his second point, however—a sharper veering of the customers toward picking the attractions they intend supporting—he was giving expression to what many others have been recognizing in stepped-up volume of late.

The drift is not new. It simply grows more steadily pronounced. As the war drew to a close, ardent observers of the times began to get wise to the change. Their statistics provided all the proof then required to demonstrate theatre managers no longer were stepping out of the way as they threw open the doors if they wanted to survive the deluge.

■

The deluge had not vanished, but it was predicated on selectivity. Audiences were beginning to display signs of picking and choosing the merchandise they wanted. Some of the blind allegiance which was developed through lack of other spending avenues began to disappear. Values were being weighed, which meant any number of poor-to-average attractions, skyrocketed into national grosses which their merit never deserved, began to turn earthward.

Some producers and distributors who had been riding the gravy train learned they were not traveling by perpetual motion. They didn't like it, there being no reason why they should. Nevertheless, it was as inevitable as death and taxes—to disinter a very old bromide.

■

The clearest manifestation of what goes on today, of course, takes form in the well-known and oft-reported extended-run situation. This has to be approached in averages, not in terms of the exceptional attraction which makes as much of a monkey of the rules as it always has. It is common knowledge that length of run is shorter although the money generally rolling in during the life of the run causes no pain to either exhibitor or distributor.

■

Should this continue, first runs will require more pictures each year. In turn, this clearly indicates major studios will have to increase production to meet the market. In this event, the product shortages complained of by exhibitor organizations, including Allied, will evaporate, and quiet restored on that point.

■

Forward-looking sales managers are not unprepared for the day, hoping it may never arrive. If it ever does, the adjustment will have to follow. At the moment, extended runs fit properly into their somewhat abbreviated description. Attractions holding up for three and four weeks are common occurrences. While this may increase first-run requirements, the differential is not pronounced enough thus far to make it necessary for any major studio to consider a wholesale rise in production.

But, on the other hand, if runs should shrink to an average of two weeks, Hollywood will be tumbling all over itself in a mad race to turn out enough merchandise to occupy available screens.

■ ■

Eric Johnston says the country needs about 5,000 new theatres, indicating he anticipates quite an upsurge in portables and drive-ins. He further says all of this new construction will bring about substantially increased attendance over the period of the ensuing five years.

The mere building of a flock of new houses carries no guarantee audiences will be on hand to fill them. If Johnston had spoken about methods of cultivating new patrons, he would have been on happier ground. We do nothing in this industry about broadening the market, hoping that by accident or magic it will broaden itself.

Hardly scientific.

Governor, Mayor to 'Orleans' Opening

Gov. James Davis of Louisiana, Mayor de Lesseps S. Morrison of New Orleans, and scores of other state and city officials, as well as a number of film stars, will be on hand at New Orleans' 3,600-seat Saenger Theatre for the world premiere there on April 26 of Jules Levey's "Union Orleans," the producer disclosed yesterday. The picture, dealing with the development of American jazz, particularly with reference to its inception in New Orleans, has been booked for an indefinite run at the Saenger and thereafter will be set in 100 situations in the area, Levey reported. United Artists is distributing.

Officialdom's endorsement of the film, Levey said, is typified in a recent statement of Mayor Morrison who described it as a "true and entertaining history on the creation of jazz and the conditions that did exist in our city at that time." Its stars include Arturo de Cordova, Irene Rich, and featured are the Louis Armstrong and Woody Herman bands. Levey's representative here, Charles Jones, has joined with a battery of UA promotional executives under Paul Lazarus, Jr., in the formulation of an extensive pre-selling campaign on the picture. They also will be on hand for the opening.

Levey will leave here for the Coast at the weekend to set in motion production plans on two more films to meet his schedule for the year. He will return in two weeks prior to leaving for the New Orleans premiere.

Pelton Quits AMPP Post in Six Months

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Fred Pelton, for the past eight years Hollywood labor relations executive of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, will leave his post in six months to engage in a private enterprise. Meanwhile, he will instruct Charles F. Boren, whose appointment as labor relations manager for the AMPP was reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, in his new duties.

Bachman Leaves WB; May Go to UA Post

CHARLOTTE, March 26.—John A. Bachman, who resigned recently as Warners branch manager here after 11 years with the company, will join United Artists as branch manager in Atlanta on April 7. Latter post was left vacant by the resignation of Henry Krumm, recently appointed Southern division manager for Selznick Releasing Organization.

Shubert Trial Ends

Both sides in the three-day trial of the $500,000 suit brought by Lee and Jacob Shubert against Columbia for using the Winter Garden name and scenes depicting the theatre in "The Jolson Story" rested their cases yesterday before Supreme Court Justice James M. McNally, here.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo. J. Sullivan, Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Avenue; Washington, Jim H. Brady, 215 Atlantic Bldg.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

RONALD
REAGAN

ALEXIS
SMITH

ZACHARY
SCOTT

"STALLION ROAD" WILL TAKE YOU TO THE TOP!

DIRECTED BY
JAMES V. KERN
NOVEL AND SCREEN PLAY BY STEPHEN LONGSTREET
PRODUCED BY
ALEX GOTTLIEB

A GREAT STORY TOLD
WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT
----IN THE
GREAT
OUTDOORS!

WARNERS
Road to Success!

Wash. Theatremen Plan ASCAP Fight

SEATTLE, March 26.—Eighteen Washington theatre owners have arrived here to attend a meeting of independent exhibitors, called to map plans to fight efforts by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers to collect license fees on film music. Following a declaratory judgment issued by Judge Wright in the state court in Olympia, last month, in a proceeding initiated by ASCAP, the organization has begun to set up machinery for a check-up of unlicensed theatres and other amusement establishments which play music controlled by ASCAP members.

Possibility of an appeal by the theatre operators from the court ruling has been indicated.

New Ascap Directors To Be Certified

The following will be certified by ASCAP's election committee to the Society's general membership meeting today as winners of a board of directors election:

Popular field writers: Stanley Adams, Otto Harbach, Edgar Leslie and Oscar Hammerstein II. Standard writer: Deems Taylor. Popular field publishers: Irving Caesar, Abe Olman and Lester Santly. Standard publisher: Frank H. Connor.

WB Issues Booklet For Its Employes

A 32-page brochure entitled "Your Company and You" has been prepared by Warners' personnel department, here, under the direction of Ralph W. Budd. Designed for the promotion of harmonious employer-employee relations, the book, which will be distributed to all Warner workers, has a brief history of the organization and information on working regulations, advancement opportunities, labor-management committees, health and welfare service and working rules and benefits.

McNamara Due Here

Paul McNamara, advertising-publicity director for David O. Selznick, is due here from Hollywood by plane to map promotional plans with Selznick and Neil Agnew, president of Selznick Releasing Organization, for "Duel in the Sun," "The Paradine Case" and "Portrait of Jennie."

Sinatra in "Bells"

HOLLYWOOD, March 26. — Frank Sinatra will portray the part of a priest in "Miracle of the Bells," Lasky-MacEwen production. Sinatra will not sing in the film, which is one of three more which the unit is making for RKO Radio release.

Academy Election Set for April 15

Hollywood, March 26—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will hold its annual board of governors election on April 15, when electors also will vote on three by-law changes adopted last fall.

Studio Wage Boost Begins Next Week

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—The major studios will implement next week the 11.17 per cent wage increase recently granted approximately 15,000 employes to meet the cost-of-living increase in the Los Angeles area as determined by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Meanwhile paychecks totaling $2,750,000, retroactive to Jan. 1, are being distributed. The new wage level will cost the studios $8,250,000 in additional payments over the old scale between now and the end of the year.

SOPEG-CPB Opening Contract Talks Today

Representatives of the Copyright Protection Bureau and the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, UOPWA-CIO, will confer on classifications today, following certification of the union last week in a cross-check of union cards.

SOPEG is seeking a 30 per cent wage increase for the 54 employes involved. Edward A. Sargoy and Joseph Stein will represent the company, while Otto Langer will head a SOPEG negotiating committee consisting of six employes.

New RCA Television Console Is on Way

The Radio Corporation of America will shortly introduce its first post-war console television set. Many extensive production changes designed to increase output of all types of television receivers have been completed.

An RCA official says that the recent decision of the Federal Communications Commission denying Columbia Broadcasting issuance of commercial standards for color television is the "go ahead" signal for black and white producers.

Silverstein Is Named Pictorial Ad Head

Adolph Silverstein, formerly with 20th Century-Fox, Paramount and United Artists, has been appointed advertising-publicity director of Pictorial Films, 16mm. film producing and distributing subsidiary of Pathe Industries, it was announced yesterday by Lloyd Lind, vice-president of Producers Releasing Corp. Pictorial has the 16mm. rights to all PRC features.

Screenings Resumed

PHILADELPHIA, March 26. — Warners' and Philadelphia's film critics have reconciled since Warners decided to resume screenings. Two months ago, the circuit decided that critics could not judge films fairly in a "cold" screening room and therefore suspended such showings.

'Lives' Louisville Date

LOUISVILLE, March 26.—"The Best Years of Our Lives" will have its Louisville premiere on Thursday, April 3, at the Strand. The showing will be on continuous performances daily at increased prices, but with no seats reserved.

Barron Rites Today

ATLANTA, March 26.—Funeral services for David Barron, 83, father of Carter Barron, head of Loew's in Washington, will be held at Clarksville, Ga., tomorrow. Barron died at his Clarksville home yesterday.

Gold Heads Jersey Anti-Tax Combine

TRENTON, March 26.—George Gold of Newark has been elected director-chairman of the Federation of New Jersey Theatres, newly-created organization of theatre associations, circuits, and all groups of exhibitors, set up to combat sales tax legislation. Already singled out for a full-scale assault is Assembly sales tax bill No. 27, which would authorize municipalities to levy admission taxes.

Allied of New Jersey spearheaded formation of the Federation, which is backed by Atlantic Theatres, Fabian, Loew's, Hunt Theatres, the ITOA, Paramount, RKO, Reade Theatres, Warners, and others, all having combined to fight admission taxes in a common cause.

Plans have been formulated for a campaign to acquaint theatre patrons and the general public with the need for combatting sales tax legislation. The screens of some 400 New Jersey theatres, serving 4,000,000 persons, will be one of the mediums used to point up the campaign.

Cancer Show Marks 'Frisco Realignment

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26. — The local Paramount Theatre's transfer from the management of Fox West Coast to Paramount will be marked tomorrow by a reserved-seat opening of "My Favorite Brunette," with all proceeds going to the "Damon Runyon Cancer Fund." Veronica Lake, Eddie Bracken, Olga San Juan, William Demarest and Johnny Mercer will attend.

The house is being taken over by Paramount as part of the dissolution of its pooling agreement with Fox West Coast. The St. Francis, to be taken over Sunday, will be modernized and converted to a first-run theatre. The State, going under Paramount management at the same time, will become a second-run house. All three are under Jerry Zigmond, newly-appointed Paramount manager here.

Bill Seeks Parity For Women's Wages

SACRAMENTO, March 26. — A bill which would require employers in California to pay the same scale of wages to women as to men, has been introduced by Assemblymen Augustus Hawkins and Glen Anderson, both of Los Angeles. The bill stipulates women shall receive equal pay with men doing "the same or equal work and having the same or equal qualifications."

Services Today for Abel Vigard, 49

Funeral services for Abel A. Vigard, 49, vice-president of Warner Theatres, who died Tuesday at Adelphi Hospital, Brooklyn, will be held here this morning at Riverside Memorial Chapel. Interment will be at Mountrepose Cemetery, Kingston, N. Y.

Vigard, a brother-in-law of Joseph Hazen, independent producer, had been in Warner's legal department for the past 18 years. He was a charter member of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith. Surviving are his widow, Shirley, and two brothers, Harry and Joseph.

100 at Testimonial Dinner for Kolitz

CLEVELAND, March 26.—Over 100 industry representatives in this area were present at a testimonial dinner for Al Kolitz, local RKO manager who has been promoted to Rocky Mountain district manager, held here this week at the Statler Hotel.

Among those present were: Sid Kramer, RKO Radio assistant general short subjects sales manager; Len Gruenberg, district manager whom Kolitz succeeds; Milton Co[illegible] district manager, and Bernard Kranze, Judge Arthur Day, Martin G. Smith, president of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio; Jim Beidler, Jack Lykes, James Dempsey, Bert Schoonmaker, all of Toledo; and theatremen Ray Wallace, Leo Jones, Chris Velas, Leon Velas, Pete Ruffo, Paul Ellis and Warren and Urban Anderson.

Seek Exemption for Professional Women

SACRAMENTO, March 26. — A bill exempting "executive, administrative and professional" women from the eight-hour limitation of the state labor code, has been introduced by Assemblymen Harry Johnson of Porterville, Ray Blosser, San Francisco, and J. G. Crichton of Fresno. Another provision is included in Assembly bill No. 964, which exempts women engaged in work which is predominantly intellectual, managerial, or creative, and for which the remuneration is not less than $250 per month.

Seek Elimination Of Liquor Scenes

DES MOINES, March 26. — In a campaign to eliminate drinking scenes from films shown in Iowa, Rep. C. S. Van Eaton has prepared a joint resolution which he will offer to the Iowa House Liquor Control Committee, of which he is a member. The resolution asks for the deletion of drinking scenes from current films.

Trailer Bill to Senate

COLUMBUS, O., March 26. — A bill to exempt screen trailers from state censorship was passed 104 to three by the House of Representatives of the Ohio legislature and sent to the Senate. The bill provides that "coming attractions" films must come from a censored picture but exempts the trailers from censorship fees. The bill was sponsored by Rep. William E. Fleckner, Oak Harbor.

Dinner For Rank

British producer J. Arthur Rank, will be honored for his work with religious films at a luncheon on May 9 at the Hotel Commodore, tendered by the World's Sunday School Association.

ATA, Allies on Bids

(*Continued from page* 1)

be heard on the same day by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed, the groups will charge, among other things, that the New York court actually has given jurisdictional sanction to a system of distributor selling which otherwise would have been illegal. They will charge that if the film companies agreed among themselves to sell on a competitive basis the exhibitors would have had remedy in law.

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

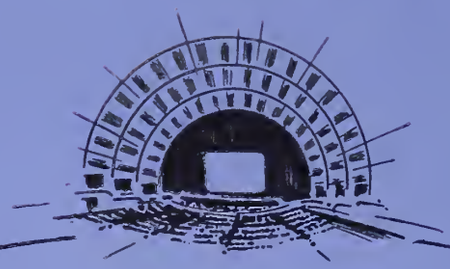
A fine boxoffice motion picture

has been booked

into the Radio City Music Hall

. . . . . *No finer recommendation could be given to this motion picture* . . . . . .

START EXPECTING BEYOND-EXPECTATIONS BUSINESS FOR "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"



J. ARTHUR RANK *presents*

JOHN MILLS *and* VALERIE HOBSON

in

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

by Charles Dickens

with Bernard Mills · Francis L. Sullivan

and introducing

Anthony Wager · Jean Simmons

Directed by DAVID LEAN · *Produced by* RONALD NEAME

Executive-Producer ANTHONY HAVELOCK-ALLAN

A CINEGUILD PRODUCTION

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Universal International

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 26

"LIGHTS OUT," Baynard Kendrick's novel, the central character of which is a blind war veteran, will be Robert Montgomery's first picture for Universal-International under a new contract with that studio. He is to star in the picture as well as direct. . . . Bebe Daniels has joined Eagle-Lion as a producer. . . . Albert Dekker has been engaged for a stellar role in "Complex," which W. Lee Wilder will produce and direct for Republic.

•

To mark the 30th anniversary of the screen debut of Edgar Rice Burroughs' character, "Tarzan," Sol Lesser will produce "Tarzan and the Mermaids," to be the most lavish production in this series to date. Champion swimmers will be imported from all over the world to play the mermaids, and Johnny Weissmuller will appear once more as "Tarzan," with Brenda Joyce and Johnny Sheffield in other key roles. The picture will be released through RKO Radio next year.

•

James Mason will be starred in "The Life of King David," to be produced by Alexander Korda. The screenplay will be based in part on Biblical material and in part on a story owned by Korda. . . . "Loom of Justice," novel by Ernst Lothar, has been purchased by Universal-International as a starring vehicle for Edward G. Robinson. . . . Jack Wrather, currently producing "High Tide" for Monogram release, has engaged Lee Tracy for a prominent part in the picture.

•

"Devil Ship" will be the title of the first of six pictures which Martin Mooney is scheduled to produce for Columbia. . . . Katharine Hepburn has been assigned to the title role in M-G-M's version of the J. P. Marquand novel, "B. F.'s Daughter." . . . Republic plans a new series of Westerns starring Allan Lane, to replace the "Red Ryder" group. The first of these will be called "The Wild Frontier."

•

Martha Stewart has been assigned the lead opposite Dan Dailey in "Off to Buffalo," which Lloyd Bacon will direct and Walter Morosco will produce in Technicolor for 20th Century-Fox. . . . Talbot Jennings has been signed to a writer contract at M-G-M, and is currently preparing the screenplay for "The History of Rome Hanks," in collaboration with Clements Ripley. Sam Marx will produce.

•

Alexis Smith has been chosen for the lead opposite Dane Clark in "Whiplash," prizefight film now shooting at Warners. . . . "Three Blondes and a Redhead" is the title of the fourth musical to be produced by Sam Katzman for Columbia release during 1946-47. . . . Betty Compson, remembered from the silent days, has been engaged by Sol Wurtzel for a top role in "Second Chance" his current production for 20th Century-Fox.

•

Lew Landers will direct "Son of Rusty," next in Columbia's series of "Rusty" pictures about a boy and his dog. Wallace MacDonald will produce. . . . Myrna Dell has been selected for the lead in "Fighting Father Dunne," RKO Radio film in which Pat O'Brien is starred. . . . Mexican director Roberto Gavaldon has been signed by Eagle-Lion to direct the English-language color film, "Captain Casanova," which Leonard Pieker will produce in Mexico City.

Dieber, 5 Others Win Century Gross Drive

Jack Dieber, manager of the Marine Theatre, Brooklyn, and William Appelgate, Century Theatres' Queens district manager, yesterday emerged as three-time and two-time winners, respectively, in the circuit's annual winter drive for increased grosses, it was announced here by general theatre manager J. R. Springer.

First-time winners this year are: Robert Albino, manager of the Nostrand, Brooklyn; Melvin Aronson, Bellerose, Long Island; Aronson's assistant, Jerome Thyberg; McKendrick Williams, Baldwin, Long Island, and John Jackson, Jr., Fantasy Theatre assistant manager. The winners will leave May 21 for a four-day vacation at Timberdoodle Lodge, Lake Placid. Dieber will be presented with a gold watch at an April 3 luncheon.

Arbitration

(*Continued from page* 1)

really not a stay at all but a prayer for affirmative relief on their behalf," the government says in its document, copies of which were made available to the defendants here.

"The court below," it adds, "had no jurisdictional basis for the adoption of the arbitration system other than the consent of the parties. A stay of this provision liquidating the consent decree of 1940 is thus utterly inconsistent with enforcement of the court's judgment of Dec. 31, 1946. Although the major defendants describe the purpose of this stay as merely to permit continued arbitration of clearance disputes, the stay could not be so limited without rewriting the judgment."

Holding that the new clearance provisions are in conflict with those of the consent decree, in that they envision "a completely fluid system of distribution in which clearances may vary with each feature licensed," the Department states that "the suggestion that the arbitrators would 'obviously follow the principles laid down by the opinion' (of 1946) might be true if they were given that power" but that they would have authority to arbitrate such disputes only in accordance with the consent decree.

As for Columbia's, Universal's and United Artists' applications for stays of competitive bidding pending Supreme Court action on their appeals, the government says: "There is no doubt that compliance means a substantial economic burden. However, the cost of introducing competitive methods of distribution into an industry characterized by the long-established monopolistic practice found in this case would necessarily be high under any procedure decreed." Pointing out that the New York court already has allowed a three-month stay, the Department adds: "This (Supreme) court would be warranted in further staying the effective date only upon a *prima facie* showing that the defendants are likely to succeed in overthrowing the findings of the trial court."

Admitting that the government has attacked the present bidding provisions as "impossible of effective enforcement," the U. S. document argues, however, that "the establishment of the competitive criteria outlined (by the New York court) as the proper basis for the selection of exhibition outlets appears to be an essential step in any correction of the illegal practices in which the defendants were found to be engaged." Declaring that enforcement will be possible if theatre divorcement and flat-rental bids are granted eventually by the high tribunal, the brief contends that these alleged shortcomings of the present system "hurt the government rather than the defendants."

With regard to the applicants' plea that they are at a competitive disadvantages because non-defendant distributors are free from the bidding restriction, the Department says: "Implicit in any Sherman Act conviction is the imposition on the convicted defendants of decretal restrictions which do not apply to others." And with regard to the plea that theatre ownership places Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner's at an advantage, the brief states that the correction of this "lies properly in an early determination" of the divorcement issue "rather than in excusing the minor defendants from the consequences of their misconduct."

The non-theatre-owning defendants' requests for stays of numerous other portions of the decree are opposed by the government on the grounds that these provisions are of the same general character as injunctions contained in the Schine and Crescent judgments, from which no stays were sought or obtained, except as to the divestiture provisions.

Le Sieur, Winikus Promoted at UA

Howard LeSieur

Francis Winikus

(*Continued from page* 1)

ducers into the United Artists fold, it was explained. Both appointments are effective immediately.

LeSieur is a veteran of the motion picture business and has been promoted successively to higher posts in United Artists since joining the company as production manager in 1933. He became sales promotion manager several years later and was appointed advertising manager in 1944.

Winikus joined United Artists in Dec., 1945, after serving three years with the Navy as commander of a sub-chaser in the South Pacific. Before entering service, Winikus was a member of Warner Brothers' advertising department.

Delinquency Under NAB Radio Attack

WASHINGTON, March 26. — Justin Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, has disclosed intentions to help combat juvenile delinquency through NAB's 1,000 member radio stations and networks. The association's new program department will send scripts and program material to stations which in turn will bring the crusade to a community level.

Reopen MGM House

M-G-M's Forum Theatre has been reopened in Liege, Belgium, it was announced here yesterday.

Jackson to PCA

(*Continued from page* 1)

the MPA said, is part of a plan to increase and strengthen operations of the PCA, as discussed by Breen and Eric Johnston, president of the MPA, in Hollywood a week ago. The new PCA post is one of two to be created, the second appointment to be announced shortly.

The addition of new personnel to the PCA is necessitated, the MPA said, because of increased pressure on its facilities not only because of the increased number of domestic and foreign productions which must be examined but also by the recent organization of the International Information Center. Functioning under the PCA, this unit will advise producers on the acceptability of pictures or sequences for the foreign market, in an entirely advisory capacity.

Addison Durland, Latin American adviser with the Code Administration since 1941, will be a member of the new board, as will Harold L. Smith, until recently MPA representative in Europe.

Judge Jackson is a graduate of Holy Cross and Harvard Law School and served on the New York Domestic Relations Court. He is an expert in the study of juvenile delinquency.

Partnership

(*Continued from page* 1)

per cent interest, with the remaining 86 per cent split equally between Paramount and Loew's.

Under terms of the final decree in the industry New York anti-trust suit, co-defendants may not hold any theatre interests jointly and their joint holding with an independent in any theatre either must exceed 95 per cent or not exceed five per cent. The court has granted the companies until Jan. 1, 1949 to comply with the divestiture order, but reports on their progress in that direction are due not later than July 1 of this year, and in acquiring new interests through dissolving partnerships, the companies must show to the satisfaction of the Federal Court that such acquisitions will not unduly restrain competition.

In tackling the Buffalo situation, Paramount and Loew attorneys are understood to have been undecided at first whether it should be regarded as a partnership or a pool but to have agreed later that it is a partnership. Proper interpretation of this point is seen as vital right now inasmuch as the New York court decree calls for the dissolution of pools with independents by July 1 and of those between defendants by next Tuesday.

Brooklyn Theatre

(*Continued from page* 1)

and 20th Century-Fox product. He added that he has informed the respective exchanges of his decision which was made after what he termed "unrealistic bidding" by the competitive Lido and Paras Court theatres.

At one time an exhibitor of first runs on Court Street for 20th-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Republic product, the Gloria has lost out to Paras Court on RKO's "Sinbad the Sailor" and to the Lido on 20th-Fox's "13 Rue Madeleine." Although he succeeded in regaining first run on 20th-Fox's "Margie," Mirasola said he lost money on the run because of his bid for a guarantee against percentage. Paras Court books through the Island Theatre Circuit.

Averring that his theatre will outgross his competitors on any picture, Mirasola said that he was contemplating turning his house over to re-issues or, possibly, three features, at least until "a semblance of sanity" is restored in the situation.

Columbia product is also being auctioned in the Brooklyn situation which is the first reported bidding situation in the New York City area. Bidding for 20th-Fox product began last December, upon the initiative of the company, even before the decree was handed down by the New York Federal Court on Dec. 31.

Astor Quits

(*Continued from page* 1)

Astor subscribed to the title service in August, 1946, it had registered only nine titles and only one was protested, this "The Road to Hollywood," rights to which are held by Paramount. She said the bureau has 45,000 titles on file but made it clear priorities on these expire in 12 months. A producer on the "reserve list" for any title would get right to that title if actual production is not begun by the company holding the title six months after expiration.

She said that both Eagle-Lion and Astor could have availed themselves of arbitration of any dispute. Robert Savini, president of Astor, charged yesterday that Paramount has what he terms a "Road-block," that is, first right to "The Road to" type of title.

He said that when his "Road to Hollywood" title was objected to he registered "The Road to Paramount" for, in effect, purposes of his own amusement. This was met with a storm of protests, he said.

Balaban

(*Continued from page* 1)

very survival," Balaban said. "The Jewish people of America and their Christian friends must carry the awful responsibility of determining the fate of more than a million."

The Philadelphia UJA campaign was organized at tonight's meeting, at which Jay Emanuel presided. Ted Schlanger was named co-chairman for Warner Brothers Theatres; A. M. Ellis was named co-chairman for Independent; and Sam Gross, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, was named co-chairman for distribution.

Also present were: William Goldman, Ben Fertel, Lou Novins, Sam Shain, Lewen Pizor, Morris Wax, Leo Pozzel, Lou and Abe Fablosky, Melvin Fox, Lester Krieger, Sam Daroff, Fred Mann and Kurt Peiser.

Asks 'Free Press'

(*Continued from page* 1)

Other members of the commission are: Zechariah Chafee, Jr., Harvard University; John M. Clark, Columbia University; John Dickinson, University of Pennsylvania; William E. Hocking, Harvard; Harold D. Lasswell, Yale University; Archibald MacLeish; Charles E. Merriam, University of Chicago; Reinhold Niebuhr, Union Theological Seminary; Robert Redfield, University of Chicago; Beardsley Ruml, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and Arthur M. Schlesinger, Harvard.

No representatives of motion pictures, the press or radio are listed.

Films a Minor Phase

The motion picture comprises a minor phase of the report and reflects the findings of Ruth Inglis, a member of the commission staff, whose report "Freedom of the Movies" was published recently.

The report makes passing references to "monopoly" and "concentration" in the motion picture industry and, under the heading "The Pressure of the Audience," it asserts that "pressure groups, because they have or are thought to have influence on attendance, have shaped the motion picture to their desires. Hollywood's efforts to develop the documentary film may be thwarted by its habit of yielding to this kind of intimidation."

Self-regulation in motion pictures receives more attention in the report than any other single industry subject. Referring to the Production Code the report says: "This self-regulating agency has limited purposes. It calculates the minimal prohibitions necessary to permit films to circulate without censorship and without boycott. The results indicate that the calculation is fairly exact." And: "It put a stop to the salacious and crudely sensational pictures which had been the target of consumers' boycotts and gave the industry for the first time some public standing."

State Boards Would Stay

Of its recommendation that free press guarantees be extended to films, the report says: "This would not abolish state boards of review; it would require them to operate within the First Amendment as interpreted by the Supreme Court."

Its second recommendation is that the "government facilitate new ventures in the communications industry, that it foster the introduction of new techniques, that it maintain competition among large units through the anti-trust laws, but that those laws be sparingly used to break up such units, and that, where concentration is necessary in communications, the government endeavor to see to it that the public gets the benefit of such concentration."

Goodenough to Kay

MEMPHIS, March 26.—John D. Goodenough has been named branch manager of Kay Film Exchange here.

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Estimates of Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses, exclusive of Federal tax, for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

CHICAGO

Spring rains and blizzards, combined with an unpublicized "flu" epidemic, sent some grosses below recent levels. However, good business was in evidence generally. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-27:

THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—APOLLO (1,200) (95c) 13th week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $12,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—CHICAGO (3,900) (95c) 2nd week of film, 1st week of new stage show. On stage: King Cole Trio. Gross: $58,000. (Average: $62,000)
13 RUE MADELEINE (20th-Fox)—GARRICK (1,000) (95c). Gross: $18,000. (Average: $13,000)
SMASH-UP (UI)—GRAND (1,150) (95c). Gross: $27,000. (Average: $18,000)
THE RED HOUSE (UA)—ORIENTAL (3,200) (95c). On stage: Jan August and Jerry Lester. Adults only. Gross: $60,000. (Average: $48,000)
THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI (UA) and BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—PALACE (2,500) (65c-95c). Gross: $20,000. (Average: $24,000)
DANIEL BOONE (RKO Radio reissue) and WINDJAMMER (RKO Radio reissue)—RIALTO (1,687) (65c-95c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,000)
PURSUED (WB)—ROOSEVELT (1,000) (95c) 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $20,000)
THE YEARLING (M-G-M)—STATE-LAKE (2,700) (95c) 5th week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $30,000)
THE SECRET HEART (M-G-M)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,700) (95c). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $27,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—WOODS (1,200) (Advanced prices: 95c-$1.20-$1.40-$1.80) 14th week. Gross: $37,000. (Average, at 95c: $20,000)

SAN FRANCISCO

A spell of fine weather, combined with a lengthy list of holdovers, has kept grosses low. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-28:

SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (U-I) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—ORPHEUM (2,440) (55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $14,000)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox) and ALIAS MR. TWILIGHT (Col.)—FOX (4,651) (60c-85c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $32,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio)—GOLDEN GATE (2,825) (65c-$1.00). With vaudeville. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $32,000)
SMASH-UP (U-I) and ACCOMPLPICE (PRC)—ESQUIRE (1,008) (55c-85c) 4th week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—UNITED NATIONS (1,129) (Advanced prices: $1.25-$1.50) 2nd week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: at 60c-85c: $6,000)
SMASH-UP (U-I) and ACCOMPLICE (PRC)—TIVOLI (1,008) (55c-85c) 4th week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $10,000)
THE FABULOUS DORSEYS (UA) and THE PHANTOM THIEF (Col.)—UNITED ARTISTS (1,465) (85c). Gross: $11,500. (Average: $14,000)
LADY IN THE LAKE (M-G-M) and MYSTERIOUS MR. VALENTINE (Rep.)—WARFIELD (2,672) (60c-85c) 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $27,000)

DENVER

"The Best Years of Our Lives" ran strong in its second week at the Aladdin and is staying. "The Jolson Story" gave the Rialto a record week and stays. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-27:

BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—ALADDIN (1,400) (Advanced prices: 90c-$1.80) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average, at 35c-74c: $4,000)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M) and CARAVAN TRAIL (PRC)—BROADWAY (1,500) (35c-74c) 4 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $7,500)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—DENHAM (1,750) (35c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $11,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—DENVER (2,525) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Esquire, Webber. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—ESQUIRE (742) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Webber. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) and BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (2,600) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $15,500)
THE RETURN OF MONTE CRISTO (Col.) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—PARAMOUNT (2,200) (35c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $8,000)
THE JOLSON STORY (Col.)—RIALTO (878) (35c-74c) 7 days, after two weeks each at Denver, Esquire, Webber. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $3,000)
DEAD RECONING (Col.) and SUSIE STEPS OUT (UA)—WEBBER (750) (35c-74c) 7 days, day and date with Denver, Esquire. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $2,000)

OMAHA

Warmest weather of the year reached here, but grosses were lower than usual. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-27:

NORA PRENTISS (WB) and THE TRAP (Mono.)—OMAHA (2,000) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, for "Nora Prentiss," on moveover from Paramount. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,500)
THE BACHELOR'S DAUGHTERS (UA)—ORPHEUM (3,000) (55c-80c) 7 days. Allan Jones and Carlos Molina on stage. Gross: $16,100. (Average: $19,700)
THE DARK MIRROR (U-I)—PARAMOUNT (2,900) (50c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,100. (Average: $10,600)
DEAD RECKONING (Col.) and BLONDIE'S BIG MOMENT (Col.)—RKO BRANDEIS (1,200) (50c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $6,600. (Average: $6,600)

MINNEAPOLIS

"The Razor's Edge," "The Best Years of Our Lives" and "Beat the Band" are doing outstanding business. Weather has been balmy. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 27:

SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING (Para.)—CENTURY (1,500) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on moveover from Radio City. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $7,300)
TO EACH HIS OWN (Para.)—GOPHER (1,000) (44c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $3,800. (Average: $3,400)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—LYRIC (1,100) (50c-70c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $4,700. (Average: $5,600)
BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—RKO ORPHEUM (2,800) (50c-85c) 7 days. On stage: Vaughn Monroe and orchestra. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $14,500)
THE RAZOR'S EDGE (20th-Fox)—RADIO CITY (4,000) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $26,500. (Average: $18,000)
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (RKO Radio)—RKO PAN (1,500) (Advanced prices: 90c-$1.50) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average, at 50c-70c: $8,500)
LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY (M-G-M)—STATE (2,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $13,000)

KANSAS CITY

A snowstorm part of the week and the spring-like days that followed it were both harmful to attendance. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 25-27:

SWELL GUY (U-I)—ESQUIRE (800) (45c-65c). Gross: $3,600. (Average: $8,000)
SWELL GUY (U-I)—FAIRWAY (700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $900. (Average: $1,750)
THE RED HOUSE (UA) and THE THIRTEENTH HOUR (Col.)—MIDLAND (3,500) (45c-65c). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,000)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—NEWMAN (1,900) (45c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $11,000)
THE LOCKET (RKO Radio) and BEAT THE BAND (RKO Radio)—ORPHEUM (1,900) (45c-65c). Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000)
APACHE ROSE (Rep.) and OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL (Col.)—TOWER (2,100) (45c-65c). Stage show. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000)
SWELL GUY (U-I)—UPTOWN (2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $6,000)

CLEVELAND

Westerns took first place here, with "California" and "Kit Carson" both exceeding house averages. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 26-27:

KIT CARSON (PRC reissue)—LOEW'S OHIO (1,268) (55c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $8,600. (Average: $7,000)
CALIFORNIA (Para.)—LOEW'S STATE (3,300) (50c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $23,800)
MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (Para.)—LOEW'S STILLMAN (1,900) (50c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,000)
BOOMERANG (20th-Fox)—RKO ALLEN (3,000) (55c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $12,000)
WAKE UP AND DREAM (20th-Fox)—RKO PALACE (3,300) (60c-85c-95c). Stage: Lionel Hampton Band. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $30,000)

Bidding Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

do so pending the determination of the various appeals. They anticipate difficulties, however, and feel that during the initial stages they should not be subject to contempt proceedings. In any event, they feel that if the stays are granted to the present applicants, who are strong and aggressive competitors in the distribution field, the stay should not operate as to the applicants alone."

Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners are not in a position to seek or obtain bidding stays, inasmuch as they did not assign that portion of the decree as an error, legal observers here point out.

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VOL. 61. NO. 61 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1947 | TEN CENTS

Names . . . *in Today's News*

ROBERT S. GOLDEN, son of Edward A. Golden, has formed Golden Productions. The younger Golden is executive producer and president. Other officers are: Larry Witten, vice-president; S. H. Lewis, treasurer; Ann Harkaby, secretary. Edward Golden is chairman of the board and also will be in charge of sales, with offices in Hollywood and New York.

Robert S. Golden

The company will produce one picture a year for United Artists release, with work on the first of three scheduled, "Texas, Heaven and Brooklyn," to commence in July at General Service Studio on the Coast. All pictures will be budgeted at more than $1,000,000 each. The initial production, the Golden office reported here yesterday, will have four stars, one of whom will be Beatrice Lillie. The screenplay has been written by Lewis Meltzer, from Barry Benefield's book, "Eddie and the Archangel Mike."

Norman Manning to Assist Skouras on Variety Meet

LOS ANGELES, March 27.—Norman Manning has been engaged by Variety Clubs, International, as assistant to executive chairman Charles P. Skouras in planning and supervising overall activities connected with the 11th annual convention of Variety Clubs, to be held here May 14-17.

Further plans were outlined at a meeting of the convention executive committee, presided over by Skouras. The transportation committee, headed by W. H. Lollier, plans to transport delegates from key cities by special trains. George Bowser, chairman of the "Humanitarian Award" committee, announced that newspaper editors are now being polled to determine the person who contributed the most to humanity during 1946. The winner will be announced by May 1.

Dean Hyskell has been named editor of the *Convention Journal*.

Nizer Heads UJA Speakers' Bureau for 1947 Drive

Louis Nizer, industry attorney, has been named chairman of the national speakers' bureau of the United Jewish Appeal 1947 campaign for $170,000,-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Spotlight on Suit Shifts To Washington

Spotlight on the industry anti-trust suit, after nine years of litigation in the New York Federal District Court, will turn to Washington this afternoon, when U. S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed will listen to arguments on five petitions to postpone competitive bidding, preserve the arbitration system and prevent various injunctions from going into effect next Tuesday.

Attorneys for the theatre-owning defendants will press for a stay of that portion of the New York Federal Court's decree which would dissolve 21 of the 31 arbitration tribunals next week—and the others as soon as their pending cases are liquidated.

The proposal to keep the boards in existence, ruling on clearance disputes only, prior to the outcome of appeals in the case, will be argued by Whitney North Seymour for Paramount; John

(*Continued on page 6*)

Maas to Berlin for AMG Film Talks

Irving Maas, Motion Picture Export Association vice-president and general manager, will fly to Berlin on Sunday to confer with American Military Government officials on new developments regarding the release

(*Continued on page 7*)

Arbitration Ruling May Set Precedent

The American Arbitration Association is awaiting a precendental ruling from Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed, who will hear arguments in Washington today on pleas for continuance of the industry tribunals. The Department of Justice opposes the plan on the grounds that the arbitrators would have to base their future decisions on the 1940 consent decree, which has been superseded by "conflicting" injunctions in the New York Federal District Court's decree of last Dec. 31.

The AAA system set up for the film industry is the only one it has had as the outgrowth of a consent decree, a spokesman for the association said here yesterday.

U-I and GFD In First Meet

LONDON, March 27.—First territorial sales conference to be held by General Film Distributors and Universal-International Pictures since the merger of the Eagle-Lion group with GFD, was held here this week at the Dorchester Hotel, with E. T. Carr, co-managing director of GFD, presiding.

Keynoter of the meeting was Joseph

(*Continued on page 6*)

EK Cites Advances In Color, Video Processing

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 27.—Eastman Kodak Co., terming progress in color the top photographic development of the past year, reports that the output of most of the firm's products hit new peacetime peaks in 1946 and would continue to rise during 1947.

In addition to major projects in color, industrial photography, and the graphic arts, the company added, its research program embraces methods of extremely rapid film processing, which "are being studied in relation to commercial needs, especially those arising in the television field."

Explaining that its postwar reconversion was virtually completed in 1946, the company called attention to unprecedented production levels for a non-war year in sensitized goods, photographic equipment, and optical products.

In a summary of company activities outside the United States, the report said that plants at Harrow, England; Toronto, Canada, and Vincennes, France, "operated at high levels." The plant in Stuttgart, Germany, "continued its operations, begun in 1945, under jurisdiction of the American Military Government." "Prewar operations of the company in Manila, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore have been resumed," the report continued, "and plans have been made for the reopening of the establishment in Batavia, Java, during 1947."

Theatres Urge Producers Pay Ascap: Paine

Society's Gross Up to $9 Million, Says Taylor

That the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers should draw its motion picture music performing rights revenue from the film producers and not exhibitors, has been put to Ascap in "suggestion" form by some theatremen, John G. Paine, general manager, told the organization's annual meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here yesterday.

He said that action on this as well as the contemplated complete revision of film industry tax rates is now under study. As previously reported, the performing right society will consult theatre representatives in an effort to draw up an equitable formula for new rates.

Lester Santley, chairman of the executive committee, also touched on

(*Continued on page 6*)

Reds Defeated on Coast: Johnston

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Communists' attempts to capture Hollywood have ended in overwhelming defeat, Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, told the House Committee on Un-American Activities here today in answer to comments made before the group yesterday by

(*Continued on page 6*)

Stars Are Mobbed at 'Other Love' Debut

LONDON, March 27.—A milling crowd of 10,000 about the Empire Theatre here, at the premiere of Enterprise's "The Other Love" tonight, presented a scene that rivalled that at the command performance of "Stan-

(*Continued on page 7*)

In This Issue

"The Other Love" is reviewed on page 7.

Asides and Interludes

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

THE screen joins with radio in delivering to the listening public the zaniest of the zany freaks of the air, all in behalf of Universal's "Egg and I."

For four weeks running, Columbia Broadcasting's "County Fair" airshow has been featuring a pitching stunt, with contestants from the audience dressed in full baseball catcher's regalia. Instead of a catcher's mitt, however, they are given a frying pan, and, poised on the stage of the CBS Playhouse in New York they are supposed to catch an egg in the pan, as thrown from a pitcher in the balcony. Not an egg has been caught so far.

That's a yolk, son!

▽

Belatedly, Eastman Kodak now discloses the wartime development of a camera the size of a matchbox, which hid in the palm of one's hand, for use behind the lines by Allied OSS and underground agents. It took pictures half an inch square, which were enlarged later many times their original size. A "vest-pocket darkroom" went with the midget camera, containing chemicals in pill form, with a jigger-glass for mixing (the chemicals).

▽

Percy Furber's Trans Lux Theatres, USA, will on Thursday, next, open a new Trans Luxer in Mexico City, where, besides the greatest promised theatre luxury in Mexico, the management will give, free, to patrons, liberal portions of soft drinks, coffee, tea, chocolate, ice cream, cake and pastry.

▽

George Bernard Shaw, in London, is open to all offers from motion picture producers, either Hollywood or British, for the screen rights to his newest play. He calls it "Piffle."

Piffle.

▽

Walter Damrosch, 85, is portrayed in U. A.'s "Carnegie Hall" by radio and stage actor Harald Dyrenfurth, 30.

▽

Dr. Cledo Brunetti, an electrical engineer at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, has developed what is described as the world's smallest broadcasting station, complete with a tube and circuit, which will fit into an empty lipstick container.

A complete radio receiver on a plastic card the size of a calling card will make its debut next month to complete the vest-pocket transmitting and receiving unit.

▽

Mexico City's radio station XEFO proudly displays itself as "The Voice of the Party of Revolutionary Institutions." Taking the management at its word, the staff recently walked off the job, stayed out 10 days, demanded, a 60 per cent wage increase — and recevied it!

Personal Mention

HERBERT J. YATES, Republic president, will leave Hollywood for New York this weekend.

•

JOHN KOHLER, formerly assistant manager of Reade's Majestic, Perth Amboy, N. J., has been promoted to manager of the Paramount, Plainfield, N. J., from which manager SABIE CONTIE will move to the Oxford, there, as manager. FRANK GIEGER, former Oxford manager, has resigned that post.

•

JACK P. HARRIS, head of Reade Theatres booking department, and MRS. HARRIS, will leave New York for a Miami vacation today. WALTER READE, JR., and MRS. READE, will return here Tuesday from a vacation on the Coast.

•

CHARLES REED JONES, who is handling special exploitation for "New Orleans" on behalf of producer JULES LEVEY, will leave here tomorrow for New Orleans in connection with the film's opening there April 26.

•

BEATRICE REGINA SPRINGER, daughter of JOSEPH R. SPRINGER, general theatre manager of Century Circuit, will be married on Sunday to BERNARD J. COHEN, at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, here.

•

JOE MACK, production head of Filmack Trailer Co., Chicago, became a father this week, making sales manager IRVING MACK a grandaddy for the second time within a few weeks.

•

NORMAN AYERS, Southern division sales manager for Warners, is due here today from Philadelphia and Washington.

•

J. MAXWELL JOICE, Paramount's special representative in Cleveland, has returned there from New York.

•

HAL WALLIS will leave Hollywood over the weekend for New York and will sail for England on April 9.

•

MARY PICKFORD, who was expected here this week, now is scheduled to arrive from the Coast on April 7.

•

ARNOLD GRANT, United Artists board member, will leave here today for a short Bermuda vacation.

•

HAROLD RODNER, executive of Warner Brothers Service Corp., has left New York for the Coast.

•

SAMUEL HACKER, head of Film Audit Service, is en route to the Coast from New York.

•

SIDNEY BUCHMAN, Columbia producer, will leave New York for Havana today.

•

BERNARD GIANNINI of the Bank of America is in New York from Los Angeles.

•

DICK POWELL is in New York from the Coast.

•

GREGORY RATOFF is due to arrive here today by plane from the Coast.

BEN KALMENSON, Warner Brothers vice-president and general sales manager, left here by plane last night for the Coast. ROY HAINES, Western division sales manager, is en route to Denver from New York.

•

JOEL BEZAHLER, home office assistant to M-G-M Mid-Western sales manager JOHN E. FLYNN, and IRVING HELFONT, home office assistant to West Coast district sales head GEORGE A. HICKEY, will resume field trips on Monday.

•

E. O. WILSCHKE, Altec operations supervisor, is confined to his home here with injuries sustained recently in an automobile accident in Philadelphia.

•

JOE INGBER, head booker and manager of Brandt Theatres, is expected to return to his desk on Monday following an attack of the grippe.

•

STEVE BROIDY, president of Monogram and Allied Artists, and EDWARD MOREY, vice-president, are due here today from Toronto.

•

JASON S. JOY, 20th Century-Fox studio personnel director, is in Washington from the Coast en route to New York.

•

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE international president, is due in New York after a visit to Mexico City on Monday.

•

C. S. LUNDY, new Altec Detroit district inspector, has established headquarters in Lansing, Mich.

•

FAY BAINTER and her husband, COMDR. REGINALD VENABLE, are in New York from the Coast.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, 20th-Fox Central sales manager, is due here from Florida on Monday.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia assistant general sales manager, left here yesterday for Florida on business.

•

WILLIAM B. JAFFE, film attorney, has returned to New York from Montreal and Schenectady.

•

G. W. (BILL) HORAN, Boston branch manager for Warners, is in New York.

•

BARBARA STANWYCK is due here from London on April 3.

•

CLARENCE BROWN will leave here for the Coast today.

Luncheon for Loy

MOTION PICTURE DAILY editorial colleagues of Tom Loy will be his hosts at luncheon this afternoon prior to his leaving the publication to assume public relations duties with the IATSE at its headquarters, here, on Monday. Loy will also assist in the editing of the "IA's" publication, *The IATSE General Bulletin.*

Tomorrow is Loy's birthday.

MGM Film to Festival

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is entering an English print of "The Yearling" in the World Film Festival to be held this year at Brussels from June 1 to June 30. Entry of American films in the festival has the endorsement of the Motion Picture Association.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN in
'THE LATE GEORGE APLEY'
Introducing PEGGY CUMMINS
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
THE MUSIC HALL'S
GREAT EASTER STAGE SHOW

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
Laraine DAY · Brian AHERNE
Robert MITCHUM-Gene RAYMOND
'THE LOCKET' AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

LOEW'S STATE B'WAY & 45
ON SCREEN
Hedy LAMARR
George SANDERS
Louis HAYWARD
'The STRANGE WOMAN'
IN PERSON
The Famous BARON MUNCHAUSEN
Jack PEARL
CLIFF HALL

LORETTA YOUNG
JOSEPH COTTEN · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in
"THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER"
An RKO Radio Picture
A DORE SCHARY Production
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

The Academy Award Picture!
Winner of Nine Academy Awards!
'THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES'
ASTOR B'way & 45th St.

BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in PARAMOUNT'S
"My Favorite Brunette"
with PETER LORRE
LON CHANEY
in Person!
JIMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PAT HENNING · LYN SHIRLEY
LOUIS JORDAN AND HIS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

DICK HAYMES · VERA ELLEN
CESAR ROMERO · CELESTE HOLM
CARNIVAL in COSTA RICA
A 20th Century-Fox Picture in Technicolor
— PLUS ON STAGE —
CONNEE BOSWELL · BUSTER SHAVER
PETERS SISTERS · Extra! JACKIE MILES
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Coming Events

March 31—Annual meeting of the Motion Picture Association, New York.

March 31—Fox Midwest convention, Kansas City.

April 1—Republic annual directors meeting.

April 2-3—Republic regional sales meeting, New York Athletic Club, New York.

April 8-9—Republic regional sales meeting, Hotel Blackstone, Chicago.

April 14-18—Republic regional sales meeting, Hollywood.

April 14-15—Television executives meeting, the Hotel Commodore, New York.

April 20—Theatre Equipment and Supply Dealers meeting, Hotel Drake, Chicago.

April 21-22—North Central Allied convention, Minneapolis.

April 21-25—61st semi-annual convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Hotel Drake, Chicago.

April 23—Associated Motion Picture Advertisers luncheon-meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.

Rank to Toronto On Contract Suit

TORONTO, March 27.—British industry leader J. Arthur Rank is due here in mid-May to enter discussions revolving around breach of contract charges filed against him and his interests by Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., and United World Pictures of Canada. The two companies have protested Rank's transfer of distribution rights to Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, Ltd.

Rank is expected to confer with Paul L. Nathanson, former president of Odeon Theatres in partnership with Rank, who now heads the plaintiff companies. Last year it was reported that Rank bought out Nathanson's interest in Odeon for $2,000,000.

Muni in Refugee Short

Paul Muni is featured as narrator in "The Will to Live," new documentary depicting the story of the reconstruction of Europe's 1,500,000 Jewish survivors through rehabilitation and resettlement. The film was produced by RKO-Pathe for the $170,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, headed by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., as general chairman.

Monogram Unit to London

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—"The Bowery Boys in London" will be filmed in London, Jan Grippo, producer of the Monogram series, announces here. Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall and the other Bowery Boys will be taken to England for the shooting, tentatively set for midsummer.

Boasberg Cited at Exhibitor Luncheon

Theatre owners of the New York area yesterday gave a testimonial luncheon to Charles Boasberg at the Hotel Astor here in recognition of his promotion to RKO division manager. Boasberg was presented with a silver tray. Some 750 attended.

Harry Brandt was chairman, with other speakers including Leon Bamberger, Ray Moon, Fred Schwartz, Sam Rinzler, S. H. Fabian and Len Gruenberg. Others on the dais were Leo Brecher, Joseph Seider, Robert Weitman, Leon Rosenblatt, Edward Rugoff, Arthur Mayer, Leonard Goldenson, Malcolm Kingsberg, Robert Wolff, Robert Boasberg, Sam Rosen, Sol Schwartz, Oscar Doob, William White, Phil Hodes, Frank Damas, Edward Lachman and Julius Joelson.

New Marshall Grant Company Sets Two

John Garfield will star in the screen version of "Moonrise," novel by Theodore Strauss, former New York newspaperman, it was announced here yesterday by William D. Saltiel, chairman of the board of Marshall Grant Pictures. This first production of the recently-formed company will start on May 15 with Charles F. Haas in charge of production and William A. Wellman directing.

Grant has a second picture in preparation, titled "The Loop."

Capital Variety Club Will Honor Wheeler

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The Washington Variety Club will sponsor a testimonial dinner for Samuel N. Wheeler, Film Classics' sales manager, at the Mayflower Hotel here on Monday evening. New York industry members will fly here in a chartered plane that afternoon. Among Film Classics' home-office executives attending will be: Jules Chapman, Eugene Arnstein, Al Zimbalist, George Waldman, Sydney Weiner and Thomas McCue.

Monogram Sets Italy Tie-Up for 10 Films

ROME, March 21 (By Airmail).—Although Republic and Producers Releasing have not as yet established representation in Italy, Monogram currently has 10 features in release here through G.D.B., a company which owns dubbing studios and which formerly distributed Russian films.

G.D.B. also has five features for release here through another, unnamed, company, and plans to release 15 to 20 additional features here this year.

Paramount Adds 3 To '46-'47 Lineup

Three additions to Paramount's 1946-1947 schedule were announced here yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution.

The trio comprises "Blaze of Noon," released May 2; "Calcutta," May 30, and "Welcome Stranger," June 13.

Feldman To Do 'Macbeth'

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Orson Welles will be starred in "Macbeth," the second film to be made by Charles K. Feldman Group Productions under its deal with Republic. Welles will also produce and direct the film.

AMPA Anniversary Committees Named

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' committees for their 30th anniversary celebration are now functioning. The event takes place at the Hotel Astor on April 23, and will honor presidents of industry companies. Rutgers Neilson is AMPA president.

Arrangements are in the hands of a general committee of which Phil Williams is chairman. Co-ordinators are: David Bader, Blanche Livingston, Arnold Stoltz and Claude Lee. Also on the committee are: William Ferguson, David Weshner, Gordon White, Si Seadler, Jack Kopstein, Lynn Farnol, Jock Lawrence and Neilson.

Other committees follow: Arrangements: Charles Alicoate, chairman; Harry McWilliams, Beatrice Ross; souvenir journal: Herman Schleier, chairman; David Bader, editor; and Milton Silver, Vivian Moses, George Frazer, Charles Zenker, Jack Fuld, Irving Shiffrin, George Gomperts, Phil Wilcox, Hap Hadley, Stanley Sherwin; tickets: McWilliams, acting chairman in absence of Chester Friedman, on the sick list; George Harvey, Abe Dash, Stoltz.

Also, publicity: Harry Blair, chairman; Sid Gross, Jerry Dale, John R. Shays, Jr., George Held; radio: Will Yolen, chairman; Marvin Kirsch; advertising: Emerson Foote, chairman; Glen Allvine; reception: Jack Goldstein, chairman; Evelyn Koleman, Hortense Schorr, Marguerite Wayburn; photography: M. Leftoff. Decorations are in charge of Hadley, working with the art directors of each company.

Release War Films To Public Gratis

Army documentary films of World War II are being made available to the public in 16mm. and 35mm., Gen. Courtney H. Hodges of the First Army Area, announces here. Included among them are: "Prelude to War," "The Battle of Britain," "War Comes to America," "Seeds of Destiny," "The Negro Soldier in World War II," "Cotton at War" and "Black Bullets."

The films may be obtained without cost from the First Army Film Library in New York.

CPA Halts Building Of Ohio Drive-in

MANSFIELD, O., March 27.—The Civilian Production Administration has halted work on Harold Nussbaum's drive-in theatre, eight miles from here, charging that it was begun last Nov. 15 without authority. Construction will not be allowed to continue until specific authorization is granted.

Seeing-Eye Bill Vetoed

ALBANY, N. Y., March 27.—Gov. Dewey has vetoed the Fino Bill which would have made it a misdemeanor for a theatre, hotel or restaurant to discriminate against people accompanied by seeing-eye dogs. Dewey lauded the measure's purpose, but said that "unfortunately all problems that would arise are not adequately covered."

Painters Say 'No' To Walsh Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Progress toward settlement of the studio strike appeared further impeded today following a telegraphed reply sent by the Studio Painters Local No. 1421 to a wire from the Screen Actors Guild stating the latter's position with regard to the strike. SAG had proposed a meeting between IATSE international president Richard Walsh and the Painters' international president L. P. Lindelof, but the local's wire said the SAG statement is "filled with confusion, half truths and outright lies," adding: "We again state that local settlement is possible regardless of opinions or ambitions of any international union presidents."

Philadelphia UJA Division Is Set

PHILADELPHIA, March 27.—A Motion Picture Division of the United Jewish Appeal in Philadelphia, under the leadership of Ted Schlanger, A. M. Ellis and Sam Gross, today set its local quota for the 1947 campaign at $200,000. This represents an increase of more than 100 per cent over the amount raised last year. The local campaign got under way at the Hotel Warwick here last night at an organizational meeting addressed by Barney Balaban, national chairman of the film division of the UJA.

At that meeting initial gifts were announced totaling $49,000. Those contributing this amount last year gave $19,000.

Siritzkys Buy Boston House, Their Fourth

Siritzky International, in line with its plans to acquire a nationwide circuit, has purchased the 850-seat Old South House in Boston, which will be opened on April 5 as The Rex, Sam Siritzky, vice-president, reported here yesterday. The company owns three other houses, the New York Ambassador, the Majestic, Brooklyn, and the Guild, here. The Guild, on West 44th St., is expected to open in a month.

Amusement Project Site Is Changed

CHICAGO, March 27.—Elmer Balaban, president of Harry and Elmer Balaban Theatres, discloses here that the site of the projected multi-million-dollar "Amusement City" embracing a complete shopping and amusement center and to be known as "Drive-in City" has been changed from North Avenue and 25th Street in suburban Melrose Park to Mannheim Road and North Avenue on Chicago's outskirts.

To Replace Patterson

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Richard C. Patterson will not return to Yugoslavia as American Ambassador, President Truman has disclosed at a news conference here. A successor to Patterson, one-time chairman of the RKO board, will be appointed as soon as possible, the President said.

Sperling Signs Nugent

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Elliott Nugent has been signed by Milton Sperling, head of United States Pictures, to direct "Ever the Beginning." He will report at the studio here on April 20.

it's the **BEST** band in the land

IRVING BERLIN'S ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND

TYRONE POWER · ALICE FAYE
DON AMECHE · ETHEL MERMAN

and

Jack Haley · Jean Hersholt

Helen Westley · John Carradine

Darryl F. Zanuck In Charge of Production

Directed by HENRY KING

Screen Play by Kathryn Scola and Lamar Trotti • Adaptation by Richard Sherman • Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin • Dances Staged by Seymour Felix • Associate Producer Harry Joe Brown

Radio's Greatest Programs are on the Bandwagon for LUX RADIO THEATRE · BOB HOP

in the BEST theatres in the land!

THEATRE	CITY	DATE
Roxy	New York	April 16
Chinese, Loyola, State & Uptown	Los Angeles, Cal.	April 4
Denver, Esquire & Webber	Denver, Colo.	April 15
Fox and State	San Diego, Cal.	April 8
Miller	Wichita, Kan.	April 17
Mt. Baker	Bellingham, Wash.	April 16
Fox	Spokane, Wash.	April 15
Uptown, Esquire & Fairway	Kansas City, Mo.	April 17
5th Avenue	Seattle, Wash.	April 9
West Coast	Long Beach, Cal.	April 4
Fox	Phoenix, Ariz.	April 13
California	Bakersfield, Cal.	April 9
Fox	Riverside, Cal.	April 6
West Coast	Santa Ana, Cal.	April 13
D & R	Aberdeen, Wash.	April 11
Fox	Tucson, Ariz.	April 13
Jayhawk	Topeka, Kan.	April 18

FFY'S TAVERN · BING CROSBY · EDDIE CANTOR · VICTOR BORGE · BENNY GOODMAN

20th CENTURY-FOX

Yugoslav Monopoly Slates Six for '47

By JOSEPH B. KANTUREK

PRAGUE, March 21 (By Airmail).—Six features and a number of shorts, documentaries and newsreels will be produced by the Yugoslav monopoly during 1947. Plans also call for the construction of studios near Belgrade during the nation's "five-year plan."

Meanwhile, three producing and distributing companies have been formed and are now operating, Triglav, in Lublana, for Slovenia; Jadran, in Zagreb, for Croatia, and Zvezda, in Belgrade, for Serbia. The respective Ministries of Education are in charge of all motion picture affairs in these regions.

MGM House in Chile

The President of Chile and other government officials have been invited to attend the gala opening of M-G-M's new Metro Theatre in Valparaiso, this evening, it was announced here by Morton A. Spring, first vice-president of Loew's International Corp.

Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

the subject,reiterating Paine's previously published remarks that the present rate structure was inaugurated in the midst of the depression era, 1933, and has yet to be altered. He said that negotiations with theatres will begin "at the proper time," but did not elaborate on this further.

Ascap's gross income for the past year came to $9,000,000, constituting an increase of about $600,000 over the previous year, Deems Taylor, president, reported. Although this was not discussed, administrative costs are known to run about 20 per cent of the gross. The non-profit organization now has a membership of 2,151 writers and publishers, Taylor said.

A number of radio industry executives were guests at Ascap's annual banquet, which was held last night following the business meeting.

H. Schenck in New Post

ALBANY, N. Y., March 27.—Tri-State Automatic Candy Co. has named Hubert Schenck Albany district manager, to take the place of Joseph Grand, who is severing his connection with the company to devote his entire time to the conduct of the Eagle, subsequent-run house in this city. He owns it. Schenck worked for Warners Theatres in Utica, Syracuse and Elmira.

Spotlight on Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

W. Davis, Loew's; Ralstone R. Irvine, RKO; John Caskey, 20th Century-Fox, and Joseph Proskauer, Warner.

The scheduled start of competitive bidding on July 1 will be opposed by Louis Frohlich, for Columbia; Edward C. Raftery, United Artists, and Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal, with Paramount also on record as seeking a stay of this provision if it is granted to the three non-theatre-owning defendants. Likewise present to urge postponement of bidding will be Thurman Arnold for the American Theatres Association, and Robert Barton for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, both exhibitor groups having appealed from the New York court's denial of their petition to intervene in the case.

Most comprehensive of the applications is United Artists', which includes a plea for stay of the bans against price-fixing, clearances other than those which are "reasonable", formula deals, master agreements and the "arbitrary refusal" to license a feature on a run selected by an exhibitor. All these are scheduled to go into effect Tuesday.

Columbia asks a stay of single sales, which, along with bidding, are slated for July 1. That company also wants the "arbitrary refusal" injunction postponed.

Universal augments its request for a bidding stay by asking postponement of the enforcement of all injunctions which would invalidate existing contracts, notably franchises and the sale of a year's product in advance.

Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, will be present to oppose all of the applications.

Company attorneys attending the hearing, in addition to the various spokesmen, will include: S. Hazard Gillespie, Loew's; Louis Phillips, Paramount; Robert W. Perkins, Warner, and George Raftery, UA.

Justice Reed is expected to discuss the applications with the other members of the high tribunal tomorrow and may hand down a ruling on Monday.

Names in the News

(*Continued from page* 1)

000 for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of European Jewish survivors.

McCullough to Represent Industry at Truman Meet

WASHINGTON, March 27.—John B. McCullough, acting director of MPA's Conservation Department, will represent the film industry at President Truman's Conference on Fire Prevention, which opens in Washington on Tuesday. The appointment was made in reply to an invitation from Major General Philip B. Fleming, general chairman of the conference.

PCC Withdraws RC, Paralysis Offers

Hollywood, March 27.—The Hollywood Permanent Charities Committee has abandoned its efforts to get the American Red Cross and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to accept its donations of $245,783 and $30,000 respectively. The PCC will seek authorization from its constituent guilds and unions to allocate these funds to other charities.

Robison Gets Post

HOLLYWOOD, March 27. — Dave Robison, formerly assistant story editor at RKO-Radio, has been appointed to the same post at United States Pictures' production organization at the Warner Studio. Robison succeeds Michael Uris, who resigned.

Daylight Saving Fails

MINNEAPOLIS, March 27. — The Senate general legislative committee has rejected a proposal allowing cities and villages to adopt daylight saving time when they so desire.

U-I and GFD Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

H. Seidelman, president of U-I. Also present at the conference were GFD's co-managing director, John Woolf, U-I's vice-president Al Daff, the executives and managers of GFD branches from all over the United Kingdom, Harold Sugarman and Fortunat Baronat, foreign manager of the 16mm. division and director of publicity of U-I, respectively.

In a speech lasting two and a half hours, Seidelman reviewed the changes made in 1946 in the Universal organization and outlined for the GFD men 25 pictures which they will be selling this season, as follows:

"The Dark Mirror," "Temptation," "Magnificent Doll," "Smash-Up," "I'll Be Yours," "For the Love of Mary," "Slave Girl," "Pirates of Monterey," "Buck Privates Come Home," "The Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap," "Swell Guy," "Song of Scheherazade," "The Egg and I," "The Exile," "Ivy," "Time Out of Mind," "Secret Behind the Door," "The Michigan Kid," "The Vigilantes Return," "Great Son," "Jeopardy," "Singapore," "Brute Force," "Delusion," and "The Lost Love."

Seidelman emphasized the need for the GFD salesmen to go all-out and sell the new U-I product on better terms, just as U-I is doing with Rank pictures in the United States and Latin America. He also stated that it is common knowledge that soaring production costs in Hollywood require every ounce of selling effort to recover those costs.

In reply speeches, GFD co-managing directors Carr and Woolf assured the U-I executive that they would get behind the new product.

Daff led off one session by saying that Britain contributes a large percentage of the world gross of a picture. Other speakers were Ben Henry, U-I's home office representative in London; Sydney Jackson, assistant to GFD's co-managing directors, and John Jacobs, GFD's general sales manager.

Variety Hospital Drive

OMAHA, March 27.—This city's Variety Club intends to top its 1944 building fund contribution of $14,000 to the Children's Memorial Hospital with a larger sum for equipment in 1947. The plan used successfully before, 25-cent matinees, will be tried again. The films, mostly Westerns, will be shown on Tuesday afternoon, either April 22 or 29. M. S. Stern, Variety Club treasurer, heads the drive.

Reds Defeated

(*Continued from page* 1)

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover had declared that "Communist activity in Hollywood is effective and is furthered by sympathizers using the prestige of prominent persons to serve the Communist cause."

Countering Hoover's testimony that "Communists try to insert lines or sequences favorable to their doctrines into motion pictures and to keep anti-Communist lessons out of films," Johnston said the evidence of their failure is that American pictures are the target for bitter organized attacks by Communists all over the world.

About a year ago, Johnston pointed out, the U. S. government made a reasonable film accord with Japan. As a result, French Communists made a bitter attack against the accord and have waged a constant campaign of vituperation against American pictures ever since, he added.

In countries behind the "Iron Curtain," according to Johnston, Communists resist the showing of American films and use free tickets and free transportation to lure the people to houses showing Soviet films.

He praised the part American newsreels are playing in presenting factual international programs to other nations.

Johnston told the committee that Communists, where their actions warrant, should be dealt with as criminal or treasonable; that they should not be allowed to hold office in a corporation, cooperative or union where they are in a position to pursue their disruptive tactics, and that they should be isolated by publicity. He endorsed the recommendation of William Green, AFL president, that management and labor should work together to expose and eliminate Communists in industry and unions.

Preparing for Re-Release!

JAMES CAGNEY

in the

"BATTLING HOOFER"

formerly

(Something to Sing About)

SPECIAL NOTICE:

This exciting Cagney Special with its new title, most suitable to this thrilling story, will now be seen and enjoyed by millions who have missed its earlier release as well as by those who will want to see this grand film all over again. It's a Typical Cagney Treat.

From

SCREENCRAFT PICTURES, Inc.

Clearance Case to New York Tribunal

Bringing to four the number of cases pending before the New York tribunal, the Melbe Theatre Co., which operates the Strand Theatre, Newark, has filed an arbitration suit naming 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, M-G-M, RKO Radio and Warner Brothers as defendants in a clearance case which involves the Savoy and Congress theatres, also of Newark.

The complaint, which maintains that clearance held by the Congress and Savoy is unreasonable and should be abolished, points out that the distributing companies grant 14 days' clearance to the Savoy over the Strand. In addition, it adds, Paramount gives priority and seven days' clearance to the Congress and M-G-M imposes a one-day clearance on the Strand, in favor of the Congress.

Gilbert Gets Four For Foreign Films

LOS ANGELES, March 27. — Marc Gilbert's exchange here has acquired the booking franchise for four first-run theatres in Los Angeles and San Francisco to play foreign product. They include, in downtown Los Angeles, the Mayan, and in Hollywood, the Las Palmas. The latter will open with foreign product in April. Both are owned by Sidney Pink.

In San Francisco, Gilbert has acquired a similar franchise at the Portola, a theatre of the Blumenfeld Circuit, and the El Presidio Theatre, owned by Nathan and Barron.

Maas to Berlin

(*Continued from page* 1)

and distribution of U. S. films in Germany.

Foremost on the agenda will be formulation of plans in anticipation of early transfer to MPEA of film distribution controls which have been in the hands of the Military Government since the start of occupation. Provisions of the transfer are expected to follow the pattern set in Austria early this year with MPEA taking over all phases of operation, AMG retaining only the right to exercise censorship of subjects released.

Another matter to be taken up stems from the recent Anglo-American economic merger in Germany and the necessity for working out plans for interzonal film distribution.

Representing MPEA and the American film industry at the conferences, in addition to Maas, will be Joseph H. Seidelman, president of Universal International; Wladimir Lissim, RKO European general manager; Fay W. Allport, MPA European manager, and Robert E. Vining, MPEA representative in Germany.

It is likely that other international executives of MPEA member companies also will participate. On the other side of the round table will be AMG officials headed by Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure, director of information control, who will be joined by British army heads during the interzonal phase of the discussions.

Enroute to Germany, Maas will stop off in Amsterdam to visit MPEA's office there, and following his Berlin mission, will resume his inspection tour of MPEA offices with visits to Vienna, Prague and possibly to capitals in the Balkans.

Review

"The Other Love"

(*Enterprise-United Artists*)

WITH Barbara Stanwyck breezing off with the acting honors from David Niven and Richard Conte, "The Other Love," Enterprise's second picture, will probably show its strength among female patrons. Pervaded by a somber, almost despairing, quality, the picture, which is based on a short story by Erich Maria Remarque, has material and camera emphasis which combine to Miss Stanwyck's advantage: it pitches her into the turbulent seas of emotion—from buoyant, sublime happiness to the slow cadences of death —but it stays on the dry side of tragedy.

Despite its measured pace, a pace compelled by the structure of the story, the picture displays the skilled contributions of David Lewis as producer and Andre de Toth as director. In addition, it offers above-par scripting by Harry Brown and Ladislas Fodor.

As a renowned pianist who enters a tuberculosis sanitarium in Switzerland for convalescence, Miss Stanwyck turns in a superlative performance. Learning soon enough from the doctor, portrayed by Niven, that her cure will take time, Miss Stanwyck wavers between the uncertainty of sacrificing her career and the demands made by the sanitarium. She feels the compression of space and time, she experiences the tyrannical regimen of rest and inactivity. But the attentions of Niven and her progress convince her. A chance meeting with Conte, and his attentions, however, make her abandon the cure, and she accepts his invitation to travel with him to Monte Carlo and to Europe. As a consequence her health begins to deteriorate: she develops a violent cough, the pills she took with her from the sanitarium give out. Then Niven appears. She refuses to return with him, preferring freedom to the restoration of her health. Niven confronts Conte with the nature of her illness, urges him to take her to Egypt if not to the sanitarium. On the eve of the trip to Egypt, Miss Stanwyck, ill and feverish, staggers back to the sanitarium. But it is too late. In the early stages of her marriage to Niven, which follows her return to his world, she succumbs to her illness.

Running time, 96 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

IRVING KAPLAN

M-G-M Gives $5,000 To London Flood Aid

London, March 27. — More than $5,000, representing receipts from the opening performance here of "The Other Love," has been donated by M-G-M, which is distributing the Enterprise product abroad, to the Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of flood victims.

The Motion Picture Association yesterday gave $20,000 to the distress fund, on behalf of member companies.

'Other Love'

(*Continued from page* 1)

way to Heaven" several months ago.

The automobile bearing Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor was mobbed on its arrival. It was necessary for policemen to carry Taylor into the theatre, and although Miss Stanwyck, the film's star, had been escorted by a bodyguard of 10 officers, she was on the verge of fainting and required the attention of physicians before participating in an international broadcast.

The police, despite a considerable mounted force, were completely overrun by the mob.

Cabinet ministers, members of Parliament, peers, ambassadors, diplomats, and British and American stage and screen celebrities, including Noel Coward, Constance Collier, John Mills, Burgess Meredith, Paulette Goddard and Margaret Lockwood, attended the opening. Miss Goddard's entrance into the theatre, whose front doors were smashed during the general excitement, required the assistance of 30 policemen. The film was loudly applauded by the audience. "The Other Love" is reviewed on this page.

Cinecolor Promises No Price Rise Now

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Cinecolor Corp., in a letter signed by treasurer Karl Herzog, has informed its customers that its prices will not be increased at this time. However, the letter concluded with a warning that "Should further increases in labor and other costs take place, or our increased production fail to be maintained, we would have to reconsider the situation."

The Cinecolor statement follows action taken last week by Technicolor, Inc., increasing the price of film and developing one-half cent per linear foot.

SOPEG Elected at CRI

The Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, UOPWA-CIO, was certified yesterday as collective bargaining agent for "white collar" workers at Confidential Reports, Inc., following an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. Of 69 employes eligible to participate, 48 voted in favor of the union, 15 against. Six workers were absent.

M.P. Associates to Meet

Selection of the winner of the "Beacon Award," conferred annually for "meritorious and patriotic service," will be made Monday at a luncheon-meeting of Motion Picture Associates at the Hotel Piccadilly here.

Theatre Owner Robbed

DENVER, March 27. — More than $30,000 was stolen from Mrs. Allie N. Jay, owner of the Arvada Theatre in Arvada, when a safe was taken from her home in Littleton.

Italian Film Here

"Two Anonymous Letters," produced by Lux Films in Italy, will be released here by Film Rights International, Ltd.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC Eagle-Lion	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Mar. 1					DEVIL ON WHEELS Noreen Nash Darryl Hickman	THE MAGNIFICENT ROGUE Warren Douglas C—74 min.	THE FALCON'S ADVENTURE Tom Conway Myrna Dell D—61 mins. (Rev. 12/11/46)			(March Releases) (Reissue) DESTRY RIDES AGAIN Jimmy Stewart O—93 mins. (Rev. 11/30/39)	
Mar. 8	13TH HOUR Richard Dix D—65 mins. THE LONE HAND TEXAN (Rev. 2/27/47)	(March Release) BEGINNING OR THE END Brian Donlevy Robert Walker D—112 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)		EASY COME, EASY GO Sonny Tufts Diana Lynn C-78 mins. (Rev. 2/3/47)	RANGE BEYOND THE BLUE (Rev. 3/10/47) (Eagle-Lion) LOST HONEYMOON Franchot Tone (Rev. 3/10/47)	THAT'S MY GAL Lynn Roberts Don Barry THE GHOST GOES WILD James Ellison Anne Gwynne	VACATION IN RENO Jack Haley Anne Jeffreys C—60 mins. (Rev. 10/11/46)	(March Releases) BACKLASH Richard Travis Jean Rogers D—66 mins. (Rev. 3/20/47)	(Loew-Lewin) THE PRIVATE AFFAIRS OF BEL AMI George Sanders D—115 mins. (Rev. 2/26/47)	(Reissue) WHEN THE DALTONS RODE O—81 mins. (Rev. 7/30/40)	(U. S. Pictures) PURSUED Teresa Wright Robert Mitchum D—108 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)
Mar. 15	(March Release) JOHNNY O'CLOCK Dick Powell Evelyn Keyes D—85 mins. (Rev. 1/2/47)		FALL GUY Robert Armstrong Clifford Penn D—64 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)		(Eagle-Lion) ADVENTURESS Deborah Kerr (Rev. 3/10/47)		THE LOCKET Laraine Day Brian Aherne D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/14/46)		(Andrew Stone) FUN ON A WEEKEND Eddie Bracken Pricilla Stone	SONG OF SCHEHERAZADE (Color) Yvonne De Carlo Brian Donlevy M—196 mins. (Rev. 1/30/47)	
Mar. 22	MILLIE'S DAUGHTER Gladys George Gay Nelson D—70 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)		THE GUILTY Bonita Granville D—71 mins. (Rev. 3/19/47)	SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING Fred MacMurray Paulette Goddard C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/10/47)	UNTAMED FURY (Reissues) KIT CARSON LAST OF THE MOHICANS	HIT PARADE OF 1947 Eddie Albert Constance Moore	TRAIL STREET Randolph Scott Robert Ryan O—84 mins. (Rev. 2/20/47)	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (Reissue) M—105 mins. (Rev. 5/26/38)	(Bogeaus Prod.) THE MACOMBER AFFAIR Gregory Peck Joan Bennett D—90 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	SMASH-UP Susan Hayward Lee Bowman D—103 mins. (Rev. 2/5/47)	
Mar. 29	WEST OF DODGE CITY (Rev. 3/14/47) KING OF THE WILD HORSES (Rev. 3/14/47)		TRAILING DANGER Johnny M. Brown		PHILO VANCE RETURNS William Wright Ramsey Ames	(April 1 Releases) HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY TWILIGHT ON The RIO GRANDE YANKEE FAKIR	THE DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE Lawrence Tierney D—62 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)		(Hopalong Cassidy) UNEXPECTED GUEST William Boyd	MICHIGAN KID (Color) Jon Hall Rita Johnson O—69 mins. (Rev. 2/11/47)	THAT WAY WITH WOMEN Sydney Greenstreet Martha Vickers C—85 mins. (Rev. 2/14/47)
April 5	BLONDIE'S HOLIDAY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C—67 mins. (Rev. 2/27/47)	(April Releases) IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN Frank Sinatra Jimmy Durante C—103 mins. (Rev. 3/3/47)	SIX GUN SERENADE Jimmy Wakely	MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	THREE ON A TICKET Hugh Beaumont Cheryl Walker		BEAT THE BAND Frances Langford M—67 mins. (Rev. 2/24/47)		(Hughes) THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK Harold Lloyd C—89 mins. (Rev. 2/18/47)	(April Releases) BUCK PRIVATES COME HOME Abbott-Costello C—77 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	
April 12	(April Releases) GUILT OF JANET AMES Rosalind Russell Melvyn Douglas D—81 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	LITTLE MR. JIM Butch Jenkins James Craig D—94 mins. (Rev. 6/10/46)	VIOLENCE Nancy Coleman Michael O'Shea		FRONTIER FIGHTERS Buster Crabbe Fuzzy St. John	BELLS OF SAN ANGELO Roy Rogers Dale Evans	CODE OF THE WEST James Warren O—57 mins. (Rev. 2/21/47)			YOU CAN'T CHEAT AN HONEST MAN (Reissue) W. C. Fields C—73 mins. (Rev. 2/20/39)	STALLION ROAD Ronald Reagan Alexis Smith Zachary Scott
April 19	FRAMED Glenn Ford Janis Carter Barry Sullivan D—82 mins. (Rev. 3/5/47)	THE SEA OF GRASS Spencer Tracy Katherine Hepburn D—125 mins. (Rev. 2/13/47)	HIGH CONQUEST Anna Lee Warren Douglas D—83 mins. (Rev. 3/13/47)		PHILO VANCE'S GAMBLE Alan Curtis Frank Jenks		THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER Loretta Young Joseph Cotten C—97 mins. (Rev. 2/19/47)		(Jules Levey) NEW ORLEANS Arturo de Cordova Dorothy Patrick	I STOLE A MILLION (Reissue) George Raft Claire Trevor D—78 mins. (Rev. 7/18/39)	
April 26			HARD BOILED MAHONEY Leo Gorcey Huntz Hall	THE IMPERFECT LADY Ray Milland Teresa Wright D—97 mins. (Rev. 3/10/47)	WEST TO GLORY Eddie Dean THUNDERGAP OUTLAWS						
May 3			LAND OF THE LAWLESS J. Mack Brown Raymond Hatton	BLAZE OF NOON Anne Baxter William Holden D—90 mins. (Rev. 3/4/47)	RIDERS OF RED ROCK (Eagle-Lion) RED STALLION Robert Paige Ted Donaldson				(Enterprise) RAMROD Joel McCrea Veronica Lake O—94 mins. (Rev. 2/21/47)		
May 10					(Eagle-Lion) REPEAT PERFORMANCE Joan Leslie Louis Hayward						

[Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram
(M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Da*

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 61. NO. 62 — NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1947 — TEN CENTS

SUPREME COURT GRANTS STAY OF N. Y. DECREE

Competitive Bidding Off, Arbitration to Continue Until Supreme Court Decides All Appeals; May Take Another Full Year

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The competitive bidding system decreed by the New York Federal District Court will be stayed for all eight defendants in the industry anti-trust suit pending a final disposition of appeals, as will virtually every injunction against the distributors, and the industry arbitration system will be preserved to handle clearance complaints during the interim, U. S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed announced Friday following a hearing on application for stays.

With the high tribunal not expected to be able to rule on appeals before next winter and possibly for another year or more, all major provisions of the New York Court's decree will remain in abeyance for at least that length of time.

Competitive bidding was scheduled to start July 1, while other distributor injunctions, including dissolution of the arbitration system, were to have become effective this Tuesday.

Only two of the New York court's rulings affecting distribution will become binding this week, according to the decision arrived at by Justice Reed. They are the clauses

(*Continued on page 7*)

MGM Meets on New Selling Plan April 28

Rodgers Reports Bidding Revenue 'About Same'

The specific future sales policy of M-G-M under Federal Court decree provisions will be set by the company at a meeting of division, district and branch managers and bookers at the Hotel Astor here, starting April 28, William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager, announced on Friday at a luncheon attended by company executives and trade press representatives.

William F. Rodgers

Rodgers said that whatever policy emerges from the session, which will

(*Continued on page 6*)

Nine Promotions in M-G-M Selling Force

The appointment of Samuel J. Gardner as assistant West Coast sales manager for M-G-M, appointments of seven branch managers and an addition to the company's exhibitor relations department were announced by William F. Rodgers, Loew's vice-president in charge of sales, on Friday.

The Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington, Albany, Boston, Charlotte and Oklahoma City M-G-M branches are involved in the managerial appointments, which are effective April 21, except at Washington, where the appointment is in effect now.

Gardner, who will assist George A.

(*Continued on page 8*)

Federal Tax Tops 1946

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Federal admission tax revenue for March, representing February collections at theatres, amounted to $34,243,592, compared with $31,466,372 during the same month last year, according to the Internal Revenue Bureau here.

The collections represent a normal seasonal drop from Jan., 1947, when the receipts were $37,054,760, compared with $33,741,349 in Jan., 1946.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of these figures represent taxes on motion picture admissions.

U-I Paris Meetings Will Start Today

Universal-International's first European Continental sales convention since the war started, and the first to be conducted since the merger of Universal and International, will get underway in Paris today. Joseph H. Seidelman, U-I president, and Al Daff, vice-president, left London at the weekend for the Paris convention which will last 10 days and will be attended by foreign representatives who have headquarters at various points in Europe, the Near East, North Africa and the United Kingdom.

Seidelman and Daff, who left here about a month ago for England, last week participated in the first territorial sales conference to be held by General Film Distributors and Universal-International since the merger of the British Eagle-Lion group with GFD and "U" and "I." They are due to return here at the end of April.

Balaban to Coast for UJA Drive Talks

HOLLYWOOD, March 30.—Launching of a West Coast drive to raise part of $170,000,000 for the United Jewish Appeal this year will take place on the arrival here of Barney Balaban, national industry chairman for the drive, who left New York on Friday. Balaban will discuss plans for the drive with industry leaders here.

Loew's Buys Out Partner

Loew's has purchased the one-third interest of E. V. Richards, head of Paramount-Richards Theatres, in the State Theatre, New Orleans first run, giving the company 100 per cent ownership of the house.

The deal was concluded some time ago and was confirmed by Charles C. Moskowitz, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, on Friday.

This is believed to be the first instance of a major company acquiring a partner's interest in a jointly-owned theatre in conformity with provisions of the New York Federal Court decree. The deal, made last December, actually antedates the decree, which was not handed down by the court

(*Continued on page 7*)

WB, Loew's Pool in Pittsburgh Ended

The four-theatre Warner-Loew pool in Pittsburgh, which has been operating for a number of years, has been terminated in conformance with the provisions of the Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust suit it was disclosed here at the weekend by J. R. Vogel, Loew vice-president upon his return from Pittsburgh. Termination of the pool is effective today.

In discontinuing the pool, he said Loew's will operate the Penn and Ritz theatres, and Warners will have the Stanley and Warner.

Stay Permits Road Shows to Continue

The Supreme Court's stay of the price-fixing ban decreed by the New York Federal District Court will permit the roadshowing of costly features without resort to renting theatres for the purpose, a practice already begun by Samuel Goldwyn for "The Best Years of Our Lives" and contemplated by several other independent producers. Roadshows, however, may of course, be impossible after next winter if the price-fixing ban is upheld when the high tribunal reaches a decision on the pending appeals.

Personal Mention

ARTHUR KRIM, Eagle - Lion president, JOCK LAWRENCE, U. S. Rank Organization representative, and ROBERT BENJAMIN, president of the Rank Organization here, have arrived in New York by plane from London.

•

DAVE GILPIN, THOMAS LEDGER, CLIFFORD J. COX, ASHLEY C. BATE, ALICE HOLT and NELLIE NISBET of Paramount's British sales organization, returned here from the Coast at the weekend.

•

MAX COHEN, New York circuit owner, has returned here from Hollywood where he surveyed conditions for the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York.

•

FRANCIS A. BATEMAN, Screen Guild Productions general sales manager, has left Hollywood on a tour of key cities which will end here.

•

HASKELL MASTERS, Warners' Canadian district manager, returned to Toronto over the weekend from New York.

•

HOWARD LEVINSON and STUART H. AARONS of Warners' home office legal staff, will return here from Buffalo on Wednesday.

•

JOE HORNSTEIN, New York theatre equipment dealer, has returned here from Florida.

•

JERRY WALD will leave Hollywood by plane for New York on Wednesday.

•

WILLIAM LEBARON has written a play which he will co-produce with BORIS MORROS here in the fall.

•

LLOYD L. LIND, vice-president of Pictorial Films, will return here from Chicago today.

•

MICHAEL CURTIZ left the Coast by train on Saturday for New York.

•

GARY COOPER is in New York from the Coast.

'Costa' Girls on Tour

The three Costa Rican beauty contest winners who have been here in conjunction with 20th Century-Fox's "Carnival in Costa Rica," will leave tonight on a tour of key cities. Accompanied by Earl Wingart of Charles Schlaifer's home office publicity staff, they will visit Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia this week. After Easter they will tour the Midwest and the South as the film opens in those regions.

Stage Shows Dropped

CINCINNATI, March 30.—The 3,300-seat RKO Albee Theatre here has reverted to an all-film policy after recently resuming a stage show and picture policy. The new all-film policy, it is indicated, may be temporary.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

NEW JERSEY theatre operators and exhibitor organizations are showing the way to the rest of the nation's exhibitors in forming a united front to oppose legislation providing for new taxation in that state.

All elements of Jersey exhibition combined last week in the Federation of New Jersey Theatres for that purpose. Members of the Federation include Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey, Independent Theatre Owners of New York (which includes Jersey membership), Loew's, Paramount, RKO and Warner theatres, the Walter Reade and Fabian circuits, the Atlantic and Hunt theatres, and numerous smaller independents.

In addition to forming a common front in a common cause the New Jersey theatre operators will use their most potent weapon, their screens, in waging the fight against new taxation.

This joint campaign of New Jersey exhibition is sound and should prove to be decidedly effective in accomplishing its aims. If by any chance it should fail to do so, it will not be because the most effective weapons were left unused or because the most potent strategy—unity—was ignored.

•

The Jersey confederation is proof that divergent theatre interests and organizations can unite on a matter of import to all.

Its methods should be observed closely by all exhibitors. It is an undertaking that is vitally needed in many another state if arbitrary and discriminatory legislation is to be discredited and defeated, and if theatres are not to be further weighted with burdensome taxation.

Certainly it is a model for action in New York State where legislation enabling numerous cities and counties to enact five per cent admission taxes was passed during the recent legislative session. That means a statewide campaign, fought on numerous local fronts, to prevent new county and municipal theatre taxes.

The fight will require alertness, determination and careful planning, everything that is dependent upon a united exhibitor front within a strong confederation.

• •

Inventories of virtually all major companies are reported to be at an all-time peak. A widely accepted estimate is that in most instances today's inventories are approximately 40 per cent higher than they were last year.

Some financial executives believe that inventories will climb even more due to continued high production costs and the approach of the competitive bidding sales method which is expected to require many companies to proceed slowly with the release of new pictures while familiarizing themselves with the new sales method.

Not that anyone is expecting a recession, but the situation could prove serious for some companies should attendance decline appreciably and thereafter continue at a low mark for any length of time.

• •

Chatter Department: Have you heard about the theatre biggies and that major company financial man who were sounded out on their views of assuming the United Artists presidency? Then it may interest you to know that nothing will materialize and the hunt goes on, on a brand new track.

•

Universal - International expects "The Egg and I" to be its top grosser of this relatively new year, some executive predictions going as high as $10,000,000. The advertising appropriation for the picture is very close to $1,000,000, based on 10 per cent of the prospective gross.

Compare that with U-I's best grosser of last year, "Canyon Passage." Not entirely played off yet, its gross recently passed the $3,000,000 mark, which puts it about $1,000,000 ahead of the runners-up.

•

President Truman and Governor Thomas E. Dewey will be invited to attend or send messages to the 25th anniversary dinner of the Motion Picture Association in New York, May 8.

Current plans are to make the affair a gala one, with plenty of "names" for the distinguished guest list and the best fare the Waldorf-Astoria boasts. The invited list, which may total about 1,000, is expected to fill the Grand Ballroom. Limited ticket allotments will go to each member company—limited despite the fact that the expenses will be apportioned among the companies.

Newsreel Parade

THE mine disaster, the House investigation of Communistic activities, and the Big Four at a reception in Moscow are spotlighted in current newsreels. Among other items are the search for missing Langley Collyer, the premiere of "The Egg and I," and sports and miscellaneous cv[illegible] Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 61—One hundred doomed in coal mine disaster. J. Edgar Hoover denounces Reds. The Collyer mystery. Reception in Moscow. Greek parade in New York. Man of War, hero of American turf, now 30 years old.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 259 — FBI chief Hoover exposes Communists. Soviet's party for Big Four. Floods rage in Britain. Scores trapped in mine disaster. Mystery of missing hermit. Carnival time on the Continent. Holy Cross wins basketball title.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 62—Cinderella story of Corinne Calvet—from Paris to Hollywood. A startling report on un-American activities. Manhattan's weird manhunt.

RKO PATHE NEWS, No. 64—One hundred and fifteen dead and missing in mine disaster. Congress probes Reds. Basketball: Holy Cross vs. Oklahoma, Utah vs. Kentucky.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL, No. 25—J. Edgar Hoover and former Ambassador William Bullitt warn nation of Communism. Mine explosion takes 111 lives. Robert Hutchins tells nation it must safeguard freedom of press. Molotov party for Big Four ministers. Police comb mystery mansion in search of missing Langley Collyer. Premiere of "The Egg and I" at Los Angeles.

Stanton Griffis to Be U. S. Envoy to Poland

WASHINGTON, March 30.—President Truman plans to nominate Stanton Griffis as Ambassador to Poland, replacing Arthur Bliss Lane, whose resignation is effective tomorrow.

Griffis is chairman of Paramount's executive committee. He was active in Red Cross work during the war and accomplished a successful wartime government assignment in Sweden.

PCCITO Invites Top Executives to Meet

Hollywood, March 30.—Invitations to the national convention of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, May 6-8, at the Ambassador Hotel, here, have been extended to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association; Donald Nelson, president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers; Jack Kirsch, president of Allied States; Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied; Fred Wehrenberg, president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, and Herman Levy, MPTOA general counsel.

Sales heads of all distributing companies have also been invited.

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Metropolitan Stock Suit Dismissed

Suit by Metropolitan Playhouses against the Hanover Bank and Trust Co. for an accounting of funds it alleges are in the hands of the defendants was dismissed on Friday by New York Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Church, who ruled that the complaint, as drawn, challenges the validity of [illegible] conferred upon the bank by a 1935 Federal District Court decree reorganizing Fox Metropolitan Playhouses under the U. S. Bankruptcy Act. The judge, however, granted the defendant leave to file an amended complaint within 20 days.

Under the 1935 decree, stockholders were given the right to exchange each $1,000 worth of old stock for $550 worth of new Class B stock and $200 in cash. The plaintiff seeks to enjoin the bank from further requisitioning the Class B stock of Metropolitan, claiming a 10-year deadline on such transactions.

Justice Church ruled that the state court lacks the authority to revise or alter the terms of a bankruptcy decree of the U. S. tribunal, which, he said, has complete power to protect decisions rendered by it. He left the way open, however, for a claim which might avoid attacking the validity of the decree.

Wyler Film for AAF Released to Public

WASHINGTON, March 30.—"Thunderbolt," a 45-minute film made by the Army Air Forces in the Mediterranean Theater during the war, under the direction of former Lt. Col. William Wyler, Hollywood director, has been approved for release to the public.

Carl Krueger, independent producer, will release the picture through the facilities of Monogram Pictures. A percentage of the net profits will be paid to the U. S. Treasury and the Army Air Forces Aid Society. Public premiere of the film will be held at the Four-Star Theatre in Hollywood in May.

Radio Group Begins FM Output Survey

The Radio Manufacturers Association is querying members for information on actual and planned production for 1947 of FM and AM radio receivers and transmitters. The survey is being made to secure definite information in the face of conflicting predictions and estimates of FM production. Estimates have varied from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 sets.

Davie Heads RKO Vancouver Office

James F. Davie has been appointed RKO Radio branch manager in Vancouver, Robert Mochrie, vice-president and general sales manager, disclosed here at the weekend. William S. Jones, former branch manager, will supervise the Vancouver exchange.

College Award to ABC

American Broadcasting is the winner of the City College of New York radio network award for 1946. Jack Banner and Edward Greif, publicists, were cited for the "most effective promotion of a sponsored regional program, 'Professor Quiz'."

N. Y. Capitol Deal For 'Duel' in Work

The Selznick Releasing Organization here and the New York Loew-Capitol theatre management are discussing a deal to place the local run of David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" in the Capitol. Now being determined for possible consummation of a deal, besides terms, are an opening date, length of run, price scales and number of daily showings.

'Odd Man Out' Will Open Here Shortly

"Odd Man Out," a Two Cities British film starring James Mason, will have its American premiere at Loew's Criterion, New York, between April 23 and May 7, William J. Heineman, general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank division of Universal announces. A Universal-International release, the film was produced and directed by Carol Reed. An initial budget of $300,000 is being used by U-I to help launch the film, set for May release. The campaign will start April 12.

Appoint Sally Perle To Broder Publicity

Sally Perle has been appointed director of advertising-publicity for Broder Releasing Corp., by Paul Broder, president. At one time an assistant to Homer Harman at the Roxy Theatre, here, and later associated with PRC's advertising-publicity department, Miss Perle has operated her own agency during the past year. It will continue under her new assignment.

Mexican Theatreman Plans Video Circuit

MEXICO CITY, March 30.—Emilio Azcarraga, who has considerable interests in motion picture theatres and radio, is planning the establishment of a circuit of television stations here and in the provinces. Asserting that the lack of receiving sets is the only item holding up video developments in Mexico, Azcarraga expects that this situation will be eased by the time his circuit begins operating.

R. W. Hubbell Forms Television Company

CINCINNATI, March 30. — Richard W. Hubbell has resigned from the executive staff of Crosley Broadcasting to operate his own independent firm, Richard W. Hubbell and Associates, television, radio and film consultants. One-time director for the March of Time, Hubbell also has been associated with Columbia Broadcasting, WOR, WQXR and the N. W. Ayer agency.

FCC Approves Station

WASHINGTON, March 30. — The Newark (N. J.) Broadcasting Corp. has been authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to operate a new radio station in that city. Application of Donald Flamm and the Metropolitan Broadcasting Service for a new New York station was denied.

Bergman Calls U-I Ad Men to NY Meet

Campaigns for forthcoming Universal-International releases will be the subject of talks to be held here next week between field advertising-publicity representatives and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity chief for U-I. Home office distribution and advertising and publicity executives will also participate in the discussions, which are to begin April 10 and continue for three days.

U-I product as well as J. Arthur Rank productions being released by the company, including "The Egg and I," "Time Out of Mind," "Buck Privates Come Home," "Ivy," "Odd Man Out," "Stairway to Heaven" and "Great Expectations," will be discussed.

All field exploitation representatives with headquarters East of the Rockies are expected to attend. Included among the conferring field executives will be William Schulman, Boston; Ed Rosenbaum, Philadelphia; Harry Keller, Cincinnati; Ben Katz and Harold Butchin, Chicago; Perry Spencer, Atlanta; Ralph Ober, Dallas.

Monogram Appoints Brazil Branch Head

Appointment of Joao Carralcasaz to head the San Paulo, Brazil, office of Monogram Pictures, recently established along with other branches in that country, under H. Alfredo Steinberg in Rio de Janeiro, has been announced here by Norton V. Ritchey, president of Monogram International. Carralcasaz was formerly with Paramount.

Industry 'Aliens' in Mexico Face Ouster

MEXICO CITY, March 30.—The Ministry of the Interior here, which has jurisdiction over the amusement industry, has launched an investigation of all "foreigners" employed in the industry, following complaints by native unions that many who entered Mexico as tourists have taken jobs illegally, thereby displacing Mexicans.

Fines and deportations face violators of the law, the Ministry has warned.

1948 Campaign To Be Televised: Trammell

ATLANTA, March 30.—National Broadcasting president Niles Trammell says that much of the 1948 Presidential campaign will be televised, indicating that successful candidates of the future will have to be good "actors" as well as good speakers. Trammell was here for a two-day regional meeting of the network.

Says Gov't Films Needed

SEATTLE, March 30. — Discounting any propagandistic purpose for British government films, Thomas Baird, director of the British Information Service film division, who has arrived here from New York to survey local distribution of his government's product through the consulate office, has expressed the belief that government films are essential. Few of the films deal with politics or current events, Baird pointed out. Most are technical and deal with every day life in England.

Johnston's Annual MPA Report Today

The election of officers and directors of the Motion Picture Association and the annual report by Eric A. Johnston, president, are on the agenda for the MPA meeting to begin here at 11 A.M. today. Kenneth Clark, director of public relations, and Joyce O'Hara, assistant to Johnston, will accompany the latter to New York from Washington.

Warner Field Men To Meet Thursday

Jules Lapidus, Eastern and Canadian division sales manager for Warner Brothers, will hold a meeting of branch managers and other Central district sales executives on Thursday at the Pittsburgh exchange.

Among those attending will be Central district manager Charles Rich; branch managers F. D. Moore, Pittsburgh; J. M. Wechsler, Cleveland; J. S. Abrose, Cincinnati; C. W. McKean, Indianapolis, and W. W. Brumberg, manager of the field exploitation staff. Before the Pittsburgh session, Lapidus will visit the Cincinnati branch, arriving there tomorrow.

Warner Studio Crew In Boston for Filming

BOSTON, March 30.—A production group from the Warner studio, including Jerry Wald, producer; Delmer Daves, director; David Goodis, writer, and Al Alleborn, unit manager, arrived here over the weekend from the Coast to survey possibilities of filming "Up Until Now" in and around this city. Invitation to make a picture here was extended by Mayor James J. Curley to Jack L. Warner, executive producer of the Warner studio.

The studio delegation will spend about two weeks here. Wald then plans to visit New York before returning to the Coast.

WB Branch Head in Charlotte Feted

CHARLOTTE, March 30.—Employes of Warner Brothers branch here honored John A. Bachman, manager, with a farewell party Friday evening in connection with his resignation after nine years' service to become United Artists branch manager in Atlanta.

New WB Phila.Exchange

The new exchange being constructed by Warner Brothers in Philadelphia is nearing completion and occupancy is expected to take place within the next month, the home office reports. Herman Goldberg, purchasing agent and supervisor of maintenance for Warner exchanges, will spend the next two weeks in Philadelphia to get the new quarters ready.

Building Standards Set

TULARE, CAL., March 30. — The Tulare Planning Commission has set up standards for rural building as a result of the Tulare Theatre Co.'s announcement that it will build a drive-in theatre. The commission emphasizes that it does not intend to prevent the theatre's construction, but that it wants to establish certain public safety standards.

3 to 10?

they all go for ROY

- KING OF THE COWBOYS
- THE SMARTEST HORSE IN TH
- ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE

REPUBLIC PICTURES

from Republic

ROGERS and TRIGGER

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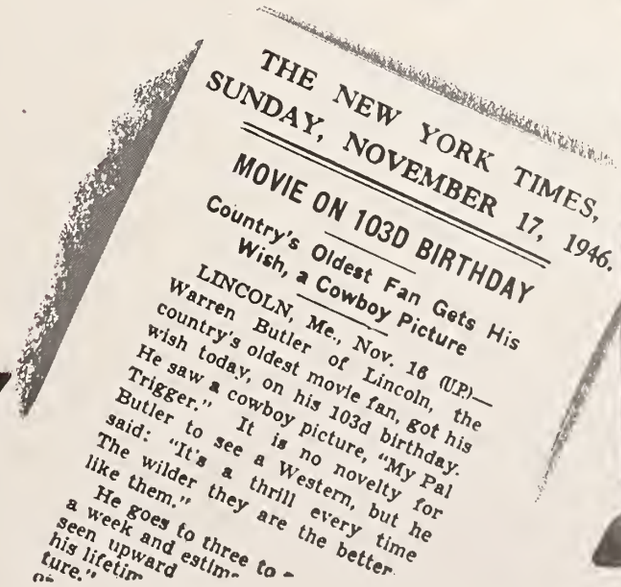

THE NEW YORK TIMES,
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1946.

MOVIE ON 103D BIRTHDAY

Country's Oldest Fan Gets His Wish, a Cowboy Picture

LINCOLN, Me., Nov. 16 (U.P.)—Warren Butler of Lincoln, the country's oldest movie fan, got his wish today, on his 103d birthday. He saw a cowboy picture, "My Pal Trigger." It is no novelty for Butler to see a Western, but he said: "It's a thrill every time. The wilder they are the better like them."

He goes to three to a week and estim- seen upward his lifetim- ture."

"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"
IS THE PICTURE TO SEE, SAY HOLLYWOOD'S TOP STARS!
CARY GRANT
Says:
"Enjoyed it immensely. The picture is beautifully mounted, well cast and the direction is of highest calibre."
ALLIED ARTISTS PRODUCTIONS, INC., presents
DON DeFORE ANN HARDING CHARLIE RUGGLES
VICTOR MOORE GALE STORM
Roy Del Ruth's
"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"
with
GRANT MITCHELL • EDWARD BROPHY
EDWARD RYAN, Jr. Produced & Directed by ROY DEL RUTH
Associate Producer JOE KAUFMAN • Screenplay by
EVERETT FREEMAN • Story by HERBERT CLYDE LEWIS & FREDERICK STEPHANI • Musical Score by EDWARD WARD
Music and Lyrics by HARRY REVEL and PAUL WEBSTER

Rodgers Lauds Trade Press Decree Work

The industry press was commended on Friday by William F. Rodgers, Loew's vice-president and sales manager, for its "thorough, informative and constructive" reporting of the many facets of the Federal Court decree, appeals therefrom, interpretations and reported opinions of the provisions and their effects.

"The industry has been well informed and well served, and with an absence of hysteria," Rodgers said.

Ohio Tax Repeal Is Seen Discretionary

COLUMBUS, O., March 30.—Despite warnings of Ohio theatre men that proposed repeal of the state's three per cent admission tax would benefit only large cities, State Tax Commissioner Emory Glander has advocated repeal of the tax before the House Taxation Committee here. Cities not requiring additional revenue do not have to pass an admission tax, Glander said. "This is a proposal for cities in need and not exclusively for the larger cities," he declared.

Theater men have stated that repeal would allow unlimited local admission taxes, some as high as 10 per cent, and that it would cause discrimination between city theatres and those in adjoining suburbs having different tax levies. Glander thought such fears unfounded.

Columbus May Boost Levy on Admissions

COLUMBUS, O., March 30. — City Hall sources expect the administration to propose a local admission tax of from seven to 10 per cent if the State's three per cent tax is repealed.

The local tax would raise $500,000 a year, as compared to the $155,000 which the city now receives as its share of the state tax. This and other tax increases would allow the city to maintain present services and still permit pay increases, it was said.

Report Vandalism Rise

CLEVELAND, March 30. — Theatre vandalism, subsided during the past six months, has broken out anew. Ernest Schwartz, president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, states that seat slashing is the most prevailing form of destruction.

New Oklahoma House

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 30.—L. C. Griffith Co. opened its ninth house here Friday night with a gala event at the new 1,000-seat Agnew. A stage show featured CBS' "Oklahoma Roundup." Wesley White, formerly assistant at Bartlesville, has been transferred here as Agnew manager.

Emerson Production Up

Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corp. currently is turning out radio receiving sets at the rate of 2,000,000 per year, Benjamin Abrams, president, states. In October, when the company's fiscal year ended, production was at the rate of 1,600,000 sets a year.

MGM Meets

(*Continued from page* 1)

last at least a week, will be in strict compliance with the letter and the spirit of the court decree.

"Under no circumstances will we tolerate the turning of the decree to self - advantage," Rodgers said.

He added that letters have been sent to all of the company's domestic branches laying down the law on that subject.

To date, he said, M-G-M has sold by competitive bidding in about 50 competitive situations in all parts of the country on an experimental basis. M-G-M will sell on that basis everywhere that exhibitors request it now.

Rodgers reported that the experimental bidding experience of the company to date has been "satisfactory." In actual dollars and cents, he said, results have been "about the same" as formerly, but he added that he is unable to predict what the results will be when licensing by competitive bidding is extended to all competitive situations by the company.

In the letter to M-G-M branches, bidding is described as the primary problem which the sales organization will face in the new order, and that clearance problems involved in the bidding method will require careful study.

In the latter connection, Rodgers expressed the hope that industry arbitration could be continued in some form to avoid endless trips to court over clearance disputes which he appeared to regard as unavoidable.

Rodgers disclosed that M-G-M branch managers and other executives in the field have been made responsible for proper terms and other vital administration of competitive bidding.

"Our men have been instructed that when a pictures does not measure up to our original appraisal, they are responsible for reclassifying it," Rodgers said. "In such instances, the minimum bid acceptable must be lowered immediately and the prospective bidders notified."

Rodgers named 10 new features which he said M-G-M will release between now and September at the rate of two a month. Release of "The Yearling" in one of the five months will boost the total to 11 for the period and will make a third offering in the month of its release.

Rodgers said he does not share the belief in some quarters that a recession is in prospect, but does believe that too much talk about one may lead to an artificial recession.

He declared that more work within the industry, particularly in the fields of exhibitor and public relations, is needed to maintain good business levels. He prescribed better theatre merchandising, better theatre housekeeping, a constructive critical approach and an intelligent effort to attract and hold new customers as health insurance for the new business era.

Rodgers said that the policies determined upon at the New York meeting will be reported to and discussed with office managers of the company's branches at a subsequent meeting and said that regional meetings for M-G-M salesmen may be held thereafter.

Highest Court Stays Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

which prohibit the distributors from "further performing any existing franchise deals and making any franchises in the future" and from "agreeing with each other or with any exhibitors or distributors to maintain a system of clearances."

The distributor injunctions to be stayed by the Supreme Court, along with the competitive bidding, are those which would have prohibited the companies from:

Granting any licenses in which minimum admission prices to a theatre are fixed by the parties:

Granting any clearance between theatres not in substantial competition;

Granting or enforcing any clearance against theatres in substantial competition with the theatre receiving the license for exhibition in excess of what is reasonably necessary to protect the licensee in the run granted;

Making or further performing any formula deal or master agreement;

Exhibiting Conditions

Performing or entering into any license in which the right to exhibit one feature is conditioned upon the licensee's taking one or more other features; and,

Arbitrarily refusing the demand of an exhibitor to license a feature to him for exhibition on a run selected by the exhibitor instead of licensing it to another exhibitor for exhibition in his competing theatre on such run.

The arbitrations system, which was scheduled for liquidation on Tuesday, except for old cases pending in 11 of the 31 tribunals, will be kept in existence through a stay of the New York court's ruling that:

"The provisions of the existing consent decree (of 1940) are hereby declared to be of no further force or effect, except insofar as may be necessary to conclude arbitration proceedings now pending and to liquidate in an orderly manner the financial obligation of the defendants and the American Arbitration Association, incurred in the establishment of the consent decree arbitration system."

Objection Believed Met

Although Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the attorney general, who opposed all stays, argued that the arbitrators could have no authority except under the consent decree, which he claimed was inconsistent with the New York decree, Justice Reed is believed by legal observers to have met this objection by the broad character of his stay decision, which will have the effect of keeping the 1940 regulations in effect until the appeals are decided.

The defendants, who claimed that placing in effect now decree provisions which might be upset by the high tribunal would be both costly and cumbersome, were represented at the hearing by: Whitney North Seymour for Paramount; John W. Davis Loew's; Ralstone R. Irvine, RKO John Caskey, 20th Century-Fox; Joseph Proskauer, Warner; Louis Frohlich, Columbia; Edward C. Raftery, United Artists, and Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal.

C. Skouras Drops Offer in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, March 30.—The personal offer of Charles Skouras of last October to purchase $4,900,000 in outstanding bonds and voting stock in the Ambassador Building Corp. and the Missouri Theatre Building Corp. at 101¾ of par is being withdrawn, effective tomorrow, it was stated here.

When he made the offer Skouras and Clarence M. Turley held a contract to buy 35 per cent of the bonds. During the winter Skouras is reported to have secured a controlling share of the Missouri bonds and voting stock and to have approached that position with the Ambassador.

Fox Midwest Meeting On Showmanship

KANSAS CITY, March 30.—A convention of the Fox Midwest division of National Theatres will be held here tomorrow, preliminary to the company's fifth annual showmanship campaign. Charles Skouras, National Theatres president, will speak. Others present from Los Angeles headquarters will be Tom Page, John Bertero and Ed Cabel. Elmer C. Rhoden, president of Fox Midwest, will conduct the sessions.

Open Office Here For Foreign Films

Trans-International Films of Los Angeles, headed by Sidney J. Pink, has set up a New York office under Marc Gilbert, for distribution and exhibition of foreign films.

In Pink's territory, West of Chicago, the organization has 11 houses already converted for exclusive distribution of foreign product. Gilbert's plans call for the acquisition of Eastern houses and for a circuit of Eastern distribution outlets which eventually will link with Trans-International's Western circuit.

Dozier Plans Two Films

HOLLYWOOD, March 30. — William Dozier, president of Rampart Productions, announces the first of two productions to be filmed by Rampart, both of which will star his wife, Joan Fontaine, and both of which will be made at Universal-International for U-I release. One will be Sheridan Gibney's original, "Possession," the second will be a dramatization of Stefan Zweig's noted dramatic love story, "Letter from an Unknown Woman."

Favor Sunday Films

BENNINGTON, VT., March 30—By a vote of 1,482 to 83, residents here have agreed to permit Sunday motion pictures, subject to state laws prohibiting such showings prior to six P.M.

Pass Sales Tax Bill

BALTIMORE, March 30.—The Maryland State Legislature has passed a two per cent sales tax bill. The measure eliminates a proposed bill that would have imposed a five-cent tax on admissions.

Chase to WCOP, Boston

BOSTON, March 30 — Jack Chase, news editor at WNAX before the war, has joined station WCOP here as night and Sunday news editor.

3 More Arbitration Cases in Boston

In a new flurry of arbitration activity on the eve of what was expected to be the date for the demise of the motion picture arbitration system, until the postponement was granted on Friday, three new complaints were filed with the Boston tribunal. All three ask elimination of clearance and involve all five participating film companies.

Additionally, in an award by the Boston arbitrator, the Gull Theatre, Winthrop, Me., complainant, which had been subjected to a 30-day clearance in favor of the Colonial and Capitol Theatres at Augusta, has had that clearance reduced to 14 days. This is to be applicable only to pictures played by the Augusta theatres within 35 days of availability; the Gull may play other product immediately after 35 days from availability to the Augusta theatres without further regard to clearance.

The three new cases brings to six the number on file in Boston, in addition to two pending appeals of awards. Charles S. Wilcox, operator of the Orleans, Orleans, Mass., asks day-and-date runs with the Center and Hyannis theatres, in Hyannis, instead of the one-day clearance in their favor.

Narragansett Pier Amusements seeks simultaneous runs with Providence first runs for its Community, Wakefield, R. I., instead of subsequent-run. The Key Theatre, Meredith, N. H., operated by Joseph G. Kennedy, asks elimination of clearance now in favor of the Colonial and Gardens, Laconia, N. H.

Latin American 16mm Activities Progress

Operations in 16mm. films in Latin America are developing, with the first year of business showing a definite preference on the part of 16mm. patrons for Spanish synchronized films, Seymour Mayer, 16mm. sales chief for Loew's International Corp., reports here following his recent return from a two-month's tour of M-G-M offices in South America.

Preference for synchronized films, Mayer said, is noted particularly in South American "back-woods" areas, where titles are not acceptable and there is unfamiliarity with the English language.

Loew's Buys

(*Continued from page* 1)

until Dec. 31, 1946. However, the decree provisions covering partial ownership of theatres implemented identical provisions contained in the Federal Court opinion handed down last June.

Those provisions specify that a defendant in a theatre partnership must own less than a five per cent or more than a 95 per cent interest. Loew's owning 66 2/3 per cent of the State acquired Richards' 33 1/3 per cent interest.

Richards is a partner of Paramount's in approximately 50 theatres most of which are held on a 50-50 basis, which will have to be revised to conform with the decree prior to Dec. 31, 1948, if the decree is sustained on appeal by the Supreme Court.

Theatre Owners Corp. Booking 46 Houses

CINCINNATI, March 30.—With the addition of three theatres, Theatre Owners Corp., a buying-booking organization set up several months ago to act for independents in this territory, now has 46 theatres on its list according to Irving Sochin, general manager.

The additions are the Plaza, local neighborhood theatre; the Auto Inn, a drive-in in suburban Walnut Hills and the Dixie Gardens, a drive-in at nearby Covington, Ky.

Lowell House Sold

LOWELL, MASS., March 30. — Tom Vetrie, owner of the Crown Theatre, here, has sold the house to John Anthony, who operates the Modern Theatre, Manchester, N. H.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 30

DESPITE the current slump in production activity, important story properties are still eagerly sought after by the studios, as a glance at some recent purchases proves. John Steinbeck's newest novel, "The Wayward Bus," has been bought by Liberty Films. . . . Eagle-Lion has purchased "Missouri Legend," described as an American folk comedy. Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov are adapting it to the screen, and it will be produced by the former as head of Joseph Fields Productions.

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Screen rights to Dostoievsky's "The Brothers Karamazov," have been acquired by M-G-M. Julius and Philip Epstein are writing the screenplay, and Robert Sisk will produce. Robert Taylor and Van Heflin are set for two of the title roles. . . . Warners recently bought "Rainbow Mountain," original by Stephen Longstreet, who will also develop the screenplay for filming as a musical. . . . "The Set-Up," a narrative poem in blank verse by Joseph Moncure March, will be brought to the screen by RKO Radio.

•

Enterprise has purchased an unpublished comedy by H. Allen Smith, titled "Better Than Never," which will be used as a starring vehicle for Hazel Brooks. Wolfgang Reinhardt has been assigned to produce. . . . And "Robin Hood of Texas," original by John K. Butler and Earl Snell, will serve as Gene Autry's next starring vehicle at Republic. . . . Two recent Warner purchases are "That Hagen Girl," a novel by Edith Roberts, and "Strange Desire," original by Curt Siodmak. Both have been placed on Alex Gottlieb's production slate.

•

Paramount has completed plans for production of a picture about West Point, entitled "The Long Grey Line." Robert Fellows has been assigned to produce. He will have the cooperation of Major General Maxwell Taylor, superintendent of the Military Academy, and of the War Department. . . . Elliott Nugent has been engaged to direct "Ever the Beginning," to be produced by United States Pictures for Warner release. Lilli Palmer is set for the stellar role.

Nine Promoted by M-G-M

Samuel J. Gardner

Thos. A. Aspell, Jr.

Sam Davis

Jerome Adams

Jack Goldberg

Benn H. Rosenwald

Jacques C. Re Ville

Charles D. Lyne

Mike Simons

(*Continued from page* 1)

Hickey, West Coast division manager, formerly was Los Angeles branch manager. He has been with the company since 1931 and will make his new headquarters in San Francisco.

Thomas A. Aspell, Jr., succeeds Gardner as Los Angeles branch manager. Aspell, who has been with the company since 1929, was branch manager at Seattle. He will be succeeded in that post by Sam Davis, who had been special reprints and importations representative for the company on the West Coast. Davis joined the company in 1929.

Jerome Adams was appointed branch manager at Washington, succeeding John S. Allen, who was made a district manager some time ago. Adams has been assistant branch manager at San Francisco. He joined the company in 1934 and at one time was a booker in the Washington office, which he now heads.

Jack Goldberg becomes branch manager at Albany, succeeding Herman Ripps, who was made a district manager recently. Goldberg has been sales manager at Washington. He joined the company in 1928.

Benn H. Rosenwald, branch manager at Charlotte for the past eight years, goes to Boston as manager, filling a vacancy there. Rosenwald joined M-G-M in 1929 as a salesman and has worked at several of the company's exchanges.

Jacques C. ReVille, Oklahoma City branch manager, replaces Rosenwald at Charlotte. In turn, Charles D. Lyne, a salesman at Dallas since 1927, has been promoted to succeed ReVille as manager at Oklahoma City.

At the home office, M. L. Simons, editor of the sales department house organ, *The Distributor*, was named assistant to H. M. Richey, head of the company's sales promotion and exhibitor and public relations department. With the company for 20 years, Simons will continue his editorial work in addition to the new assignment.

In announcing the appointments, Rodgers said that in the coming new sales and business period he believes the exhibitor and public relations department will be of vastly increased importance.

Referring to a number of changes which have been made in the sales staff in the field recently, Rodgers explained that the company was overstaffed during the war due to the inexperience of available personnel at that time and that with the return of former employes from service, it became necessary to both reduce the staff numerically and to make transfers of some personnel

Cleveland Variety In Carter Hotel There

CLEVELAND, March 30. — Variety Club has leased space in the Carter Hotel and will be ready for business Tuesday. First project of the club, under Harry Schreiber as chief barker will be a midnight pre-release and stage show to be held at the RKO Palace Theatre on April 25. Oscar Kantor, Warner city salesman, is chairman of the committee on arrangements. All proceeds go to charity.

DeVry Names Sheldon

CHICAGO, March 30. — The DeVry Corp. theatre projection equipment manufacturer, has appointed the Sheldon Theatre Supply Co. of Dayton, as factory distributors for its line in Ohio. Sheldon is a new organization, headed by Stewart Sheldon, formerly in charge of DeVry theatre equipment sales for Dayton Films, Inc.

Kerman Gets Rights

Moe Kerman, Favorite Films Corp. president, has acquired reissue rights to "Gay Desperado" and "One Rainy Afternoon" from the Pickford-Lasky Corp. Favorite has also secured reissue rights to Dennis Morgan in "Sea Bandits" and "Revolt of the Zombies." Kerman recently returned from a four-week Coast trip.

Hossfeld Heads Club

DENVER, March 30. — M. Hossfeld, film buyer for Fox Intermountain Theatres, is now the president of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club, succeeding Tom Bailey. Other new officers are: Joe Dekker and Robert Hill, vice-presidents; Joe Ashby, treasurer; William Agren, secretary.

Managers Shift in N.C.

CHARLOTTE, March 30.—Charles Thomas, manager of the Temple in Gastonia, for the Wilby-Kincey circuit, is expected here to assume management of the State Theatre. He succeeds Dick Horton who is being transferred to Durham as manager of the Rialto.

$35,000 to Variety Club

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—Individual donations toward a new local Variety Club now total over $35,000, according to James O'Neal, chairman of the collecting committee. The club is expected to open sometime this summer.

'Baker's Wife' Re-issued

Marcel Pagnol's French-language picture, "The Baker's Wife", recently acquired for reissue in the U. S., by Siritzky International Pictures, will be re-released on a percentage basis only in first-run foreign-film and "art" houses.

Louis Kuttnauer, 49

CHICAGO, March 30.—Louis Kuttnauer, Southern Illinois salesman for United Artists, who died in Vandalia on Friday, was buried here today. Kuttnauer, 49, was previously with Republic and Paramount in St. Louis and with RKO in Des Moines.

Melnick in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, March 30—Saul Melnick has arrived here to take charge of the simultaneous openings of Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" on April 4 at the Lower Mall and University theatres.

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